Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Prevalence: 2002 Survey of Orange County Adults

A Report of the County of Orange Health Care Agency



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A survey was conducted by the County of Orange Health Care Agency to assess the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use and related risk factors among the county's adult population. The primary purpose of the research was to gather information that can be used both to guide ongoing ATOD prevention efforts and to establish benchmarks for future studies of ATOD prevention outcomes. More specifically, the survey provided detailed information on seven interrelated topics:

- 1. Use of tobacco products
- 2. Use of alcohol
- 3. Use of other drugs (prescription and illicit street drugs)
- 4. Alcohol and drug treatment
- 5. Drinking and driving behavior
- 6. Opinions and attitudes about issues relating to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- 7. Perceived risks associated with use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs

The survey was based on a total of 3,104 telephone interviews conducted April 4 – May 25, 2002 among male and female Orange County residents aged 18 years and older. Hispanic/Latino and Vietnamese respondents were over-sampled to ensure that these groups were adequately represented.

Following are the key study findings.

A. Tobacco Use In Orange County

Tobacco Use Prevalence

Approximately 315,000 of Orange County's adults are current cigarette smokers, or 15% of the county's adult population. Most of the county's adults are either former smokers (25%) or never smoked (60%). Use of other tobacco products was very low, 3% of the county's adults used a tobacco product other than cigarettes in the past month, with cigars having the highest prevalence, 1%.

Smoking is both gender and age related. Far fewer females than males have ever smoked (33% versus 49%, respectively), and the prevalence of current smoking is higher among those aged 18-24 (20%) than in the population at large (15%). Relative to their numbers in the population, Whites are disproportionately more likely to be current smokers than Asian/Pacific Islanders or persons of Hispanic descent.

Smoking cessation increases with age, reflecting both the fact that more individuals in the county's older age cohorts had ever smoked and that older adults are more likely to have been medically advised to guit smoking.

Tobacco Use Patterns

Eight of ten Orange County smokers (79%) smoke daily and, on average, the county's adult smokers smoked on 26.0 of the past 30 days. Translated into population estimates, this means that some 250,000 of the county's adults smoke daily, with another 65,000 smoking less often.

On average, the adult smokers in Orange County smoked 11.1 cigarettes per day, or just over half a pack. However, total monthly cigarette consumption varies significantly by age and ethnic



background. Smokers aged 45 and older smoke about twice as many cigarettes per month compared with those aged 18-24 years (436 cigarettes per month versus 212 cigarettes monthly, respectively). Whites consumed an average monthly total of 406 cigarettes per month, compared with significantly fewer among Asian/Pacific Islanders (254) and Hispanic/Latinos (149).

Attitudes Toward Smoking Cessation

Over half (54%) of the county's current smokers had attempted to stop smoking on at least one occasion, 17% said they would like to quit but haven't really attempted to do so, and the remaining 29% do not want to quit.

Smoking and the Social Environment

Although 15% of the county's adults smoke, only 10% of the county's households permit smoking in their homes and 15% allow smoking in one or more of their vehicles. Consistent with cigarette smoking patterns, Whites are more likely to permit smoking in homes (12%) and cars (19%) than Asian/Pacific Islanders (8% permit smoking in homes; 12% permit smoking in cars) and Hispanics/Latinos (4% permit smoking in homes; 9% permit smoking in cars).

Influence of Medical Professionals

About half of the county's current smokers (49%) had been advised to stop smoking by a doctor or other medical professional, with the likelihood of having received such advice increasing significantly with age. While about one of three smokers aged 18-24 had been advised to quit smoking, almost half of those aged 35-44 have been so counseled (46%), and about two-thirds of all smokers aged over 45 have been advised to stop smoking (66%).

B. Alcohol Use In Orange County

About 1.8 million or 85% of Orange County's adults have used alcohol at least once during their lifetime, and 1.3 million (61%) consumed an alcoholic beverage in the past year. Among past year alcohol users, an estimated 961,000 (46% of all Orange County adults) had an alcoholic beverage within the past month, while the remaining 313,000 (15% the county's adults) drank less recently within the past year.

Relative to their representation in the county's adult population, men and whites are above-average in their likelihood of having consumed an alcoholic beverage within the past 30 days (60% and 67%, respectively).

Alcohol Use Patterns

Alcohol use was measured in terms of both frequency of use as well as quantities consumed on typical drinking occasions. On average, the county's past-year alcohol consumers drank on 77 days out of the past year, or about 1.5 days per week. As might be expected, the frequency of consuming alcohol is higher among past-month users, as they drank on 7.1 of the past 30 days, or about one out of every 4 days. Notably, among past-month alcohol users the highest rate of daily drinking is found in the oldest age group (65+), as nearly one in five (19%) older adults report drinking alcohol every day.

While older adults consume alcohol more often than younger individuals, younger individuals have more drinks per drinking occasion — the average number of drinks per occasion was 4.1 among residents aged 18-24 years and declines with age to 1.7 among those aged 55 and older. Similarly, men reported consuming more drinks per drinking occasion during the past 30 days than women (3.3 versus 2.0, respectively).



Based on the quantities and frequencies of use reported by past-month alcohol users, the total number of drinks consumed per month was calculated for a variety of demographic groupings. On average, the county's past 30-day alcohol users drank 21.4 drinks during the past month, higher among males (26.4 drinks) and those aged 18-34 (25.6 drinks), and lower among females (13.7 drinks), those aged 55-64 (14.1 drinks) and Asian/Pacific Islanders (14.7 drinks).

A Total Monthly Alcohol Use Index was constructed by indexing the proportions of total drinks to proportions of persons within the county's population, by gender within age and ethnic groups. This analysis identified the following groups as consuming disproportionately high amounts of alcohol — Males aged 25-34, White Males, and Males aged 65 and older. In contrast, all age and ethnic segments of females ranked below their male counterparts on the index.

Alcohol Abuse Risk Factors

Factors which are known to measure risk for alcohol abuse and related problems were also assessed, particularly Age Of First Drink and Binge Drinking.

Overall, 42% of Orange County's adult population had their first alcoholic beverage before age 18. The prevalence of underage initiation to alcohol varies considerably by current age and gender, as:

- Over half the county's residents who are currently aged 18-24 (56%) reported having their first experience with alcohol before the age of 18, compared with only one-fourth of respondents who are 65 and older (25%).
- Half of all Orange County male residents had their first drink under the age of 18, compared with one-third of female residents (33%).

About 15% of the county's adult population reported at least one episode of binge drinking (drinking five or more drinks during the same drinking occasion) during the past month, and nearly 4% reported five or more binge drinking episodes during the past month. Restated, this means that an estimated 305,500 of the county's adults had five or more drinks on the same occasion or within a couple of hours of each other at least once during the past 30 days. Of the 305,500 binge drinkers, an estimated 78,000 are classified as *frequent binge drinkers*, having consumed five or more drinks on five or more drinking occasions during the past month.

Almost nine out of ten frequent binge drinkers are male (88%), half are aged 18-34 (56%), almost half have not attended college (45%), two-thirds are single (65%) and almost four of ten have never been married (38%). Relative to their representation in the population, frequent binge drinking is highest among White males aged 18-34 and Hispanic males aged 18-24.

C. Illicit Drug Use In Orange County

The use of illicit or "street" drugs was explored with reference to marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, methamphetamine and club drugs such as MDMA (Ecstasy), Rohypnol, and Ketamine. Misuse of prescription drugs included questioning about inappropriate use of pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants and sedatives.

Overall, 37% of the county's adult population, an estimated 767,000 adults, have used one or more illicit drugs on one or more occasions and 9% (192,000) have used an illicit substance during the past year. Approximately 5% of Orange County adults (103,000) used an illicit substance during the past month.



Marijuana clearly dominates all illicit substances in terms of current use (3% used in pastmonth), occasional use (3% used during the past year but not during the past month), and former use (34% ever used). About 3% of the county's adults (71,000) have used marijuana in the past month, followed by 2% for pain relievers (31,000), 1% for methamphetamine (16,000), 1% for tranquilizers (9,400), and 0.5% for cocaine (7,500). Similarly, marijuana is the most frequently used substance (12.5 days out of the past 30 days), followed by tranquilizers (10.9) and methamphetamine (9.9).

Trial and current use of illicit drugs is higher among males than females, particularly for marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, methamphetamine, and club drugs. In contrast, misuse of prescription drugs is equally prevalent among men and women. Drug use is consistently more prevalent among Whites than among Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Consistent with first use of alcohol, initial use of illicit substances began for a majority of the county's adults shortly before their 18th birthday. Based on the age of first use, alcohol, marijuana and hallucinogens are the first-used substances. As was the case with alcohol, females began using illicit drugs on average about a year later than males.

Illicit Drug Use Among Friends

Consistent with actual usage, use of heroin by friends is lower than for other substances — 97% of the county's adults say none of their friends use heroin. In contrast, 36% say many of their friends drink alcoholic beverages, with 10% saying many of their friends smoke tobacco. No more than 4% of the county's adults indicate that they have many friends that use either illicit or prescription drugs, with marijuana leading all substances, 4%.

Changes In Use

With the exceptions of heroin and stimulant users, past-year users of most substances reported that their use has either decreased or remained the same compared with a year ago. In contrast, 33% of heroin users and 27% of stimulant users said their use has increased, possibly reflecting the highly addictive nature of these substances.

D. Prior Substance Abuse Treatment Experience

Previous substance abuse treatment or counseling was reported by 6%, suggesting that about 130,000 of the county's adults have received treatment for problems associated with their use of alcohol or other drugs.

Prior counseling and treatment is highest for alcohol (only) 3%, followed by alcohol & drug use (2%) and drug use only (2%). For the majority, treatment took place more than five years ago, with older residents having received treatment longer ago than younger residents. Males (67%), those aged 35-44 (33%), and Whites (78%), are disproportionately more likely to have received treatment relative to their representation in the adult population.

Treatment And Age Of Initial Use

Having received prior treatment for substance abuse is clearly related to age of initial use — half of those who received treatment (50%) first used alcohol before their fifteenth birthday and 70% first used alcohol before age eighteen.

Treatment Setting

Self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are the most often cited treatment settings (31%), followed by residential drug/alcohol rehabilitation facilities (18%), inpatient hospital stays (16%), and outpatient drug/alcohol treatment rehabilitation facilities



(11%). Other treatment providers such as private psychologists/therapists, outpatient mental health centers and religious leaders were mentioned by considerably fewer respondents.

E. Indicators Of Substance Abuse Risk

Several indicators of substance abuse risk were explored, including a four-item screening test for substance abuse, having significant others with alcohol or drug problems, and the perceived risk of harm associated with substance use behaviors.

Based on the answers to the screening questions, about 9% of the county's adults are at risk of having problems with drinking or drug use. Consistent with substance use patterns, males and those aged 18-44 are more likely to be at risk than other population segments.

Over half (56%) of the county's adults have experienced a family member or friend having problems with alcohol and 38% have experienced a similar situation related to drug use. Whites are most likely to report having experienced someone close with an alcohol problem (65%), while drug problems among significant others is highest among Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Perceived Risk Of Harm

Study participants reacted to twelve statements describing various substance use patterns and indicated the degree of risk of harm represented by each behavior. Overall, Orange County residents ascribe a high level of risk to virtually all substance use behaviors — on average they rated 8.3 of the 12 behaviors as putting someone at great risk of harming themselves.

In particular, "great risk" is associated with binge drinking nearly every day (89%), using ecstasy once or twice a week (86%), using cocaine once or twice a week (84%), using methamphetamine once or twice a week (84%), and smoking one or more packs of cigarettes (78%).

F. Drinking And Driving

One of four (25%) Orange County adults that consumed alcohol during the past year reported having driven a motor vehicle within two hours of drinking at least once during the past year. Drinking and driving is reported across all age groups, but is more prevalent among males and Whites.

More males (32%) than females (15%) report having driven within two hours after drinking and males report doing so more frequently than females (2.1 times monthly among males versus 1.1 times monthly among females). Relative to their representation in the population, those aged 35-44 years account for disproportionately more drinking and driving episodes than other age groups.

Number Of Drinks Could Have Before Should Not Drive

Respondents' estimates of their alcohol consumption threshold for impaired driving were generally consistent with reported drinking patterns. On average, men estimate they can have 1.8 drinks in 2 hours before they should not drive, while women calculate they can have only 1.2 drinks. Similarly, respondents in the 18-34 years age range are more likely than older respondents to estimate that in two hours they can have three or more drinks before they should not drive.



Drinking and Driving By Others As Threat To Safety

Orange County residents perceive drinking and driving by others as a clear threat to personal safety. Indeed, an entire 80% say driving under the influence is a "great threat" and an additional 14% view driving under the influence as a "moderate" threat. More females (84%) than males (76%) view driving under the influence as a "great threat."

G. Community Concern Ratings

Study participants also rated their level of concern about 15 issues related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in terms of their impact on the health and safety of people in the community. The issue of greatest concern to respondents was "People driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs," (75% 'extremely concerned') followed by three issues related to the behavior of young people — "Young people using alcohol" (74% 'extremely concerned'), "Young people engaging in binge drinking (66% 'extremely concerned'), and "Young people attending rave parties where Ecstasy and other club drugs are available (64% 'extremely concerned').

Summary

Comparing overall ATOD use prevalence in Orange County to data available at the state and national levels provides a valuable reference point from which to interpret the current findings. With few notable exceptions, Orange County residents tend to have comparable and, in many cases, much lower rates of ATOD use. For example, about 37% of OC adults report any lifetime use of any illicit drug compared to 46% nationwide. Similarly, current cigarette smoking in OC is much lower (15%) compared to the prevalence of tobacco use at state (23%) and national (26%) levels.

The prevalence of alcohol use in OC is comparable to that of available national and state data as is also the case for recent inappropriate use of most prescription medications. A notable exception is the higher prevalence of OC adults' use of methamphetamine and club drugs such as Ecstasy (see main report for more details). Importantly, about 8% of OC adults report having ever used methamphetamines in their lifetime, compared to 4% of adults nationwide. OC adults were also more likely to have ever tried Club Drugs such as Ecstasy (5% in OC versus 2% nationally), albeit national statistics are limited solely to Ecstasy whereas the OC figure includes other club drugs as well as Ecstasy. Please see the Appendix for a more detailed comparison of prevalence rates for specific substances.

| COMPARISON OF SUBSTANCE USE PREVALENCE RATES ¹ | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| | L | ifetime U | se | Pa | ıst Year l | Jse | Past Month Use | | | |
| Substance | United States ² | Calif- ornia ³ | Orange County ⁴ | United States ² | Calif- ornia ³ | Orange County ⁴ | United States ² | Calif- ornia ³ | Orange County ⁴ | |
| Any Illicit Drug⁵ | <u>45.9%</u> | na | <u>36.9%</u> | <u>11.1%</u> | na | 9.2% | <u>6.5%</u> | <u>7.3%</u> | <u>5.0%</u> | |
| Any Rx/Psychotherapeutics | <u>15.0</u> | na | <u>7.1</u> | <u>3.6</u> | na | <u>3.4</u> | <u>1.5</u> | na | <u>1.7</u> | |
| Alcohol | <u>85.5</u> | na | <u>85.1</u> | <u>65.3</u> | na | <u>61.3</u> | <u>50.1</u> | <u>50.4</u> | <u>46.3</u> | |
| Cigarettes | <u>70.2</u> | na | <u>40.9</u> | <u>30.1</u> | na | <u>21.3</u> | <u>26.2</u> | <u>22.8</u> | <u>15.2</u> | |

See Appendix for Annotations footnoted. ("na" indicates data not available)



I. Introduction and Background

The County of Orange Health Care Agency is dedicated to creating and supporting an environment that promotes the achievement of optimal individual, family and community health.

The Agency's services fall into five broad categories — Behavioral Health Services, Financial & Administrative Support Services, Medical & Institutional Health Services, Public Health Services, and Regulatory Health Services.

In July 2000 a new Health Promotion Division of Public Health Services was established with a mission "to build the capacity of individuals, organizations, and communities in Orange County to promote optimal health and prevent disease, disability, and premature death." A major thrust of this mission involves the work of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention Unit in developing a comprehensive, science-based system of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) prevention services for Orange County. A central task in this ongoing development effort is conducting scientific research that can provide reliable, prevention-relevant information on the current dimensions of ATOD use in Orange County.

This report presents the findings of the 2002 Orange County Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Survey. The 2002 ATOD Survey is intended to serve as a benchmark study of ATOD use prevalence and related risk factors against which future comparisons can be made.

A. Background

Before summarizing the study objectives and methodology, a brief overview of Orange County's population and a recent report on substance abuse risk factors in the county are presented.

Orange County Population¹

Based on Census 2000 data, Orange County is home to approximately 2.85 million people, of whom 2.04 million are aged 18 years and older. Orange County is now the second largest county in California, trailing only Los Angeles, and the fifth largest county in the United States. Despite a slowing rate of growth since the 1950's, the 2000 Census revealed that Orange County, along with other Southern California counties, remains one of the fastest growing regions in the nation.

The past decade has witnessed a steady trend toward greater ethnic diversity in the Orange County population. The 2000 Census reports that Whites now comprise 51% of the total population (down from 65% in 1990), Hispanics 31% (up from 22% in 1990), Asians & Pacific Islanders 14% (10% in 1990), African-Americans 1.5%, and all other races 2.7%. Orange County's population distribution approximates a bell curve across the traditional age brackets, with the greatest numbers of the population in the 35 to 44 year age-range. This age distribution varies by ethnicity, however, with Whites dominating the older age brackets

1

¹ Source: *Orange County Community Indicators*, 2002 and 2003 Reports of the Orange County Community Indicators Project



while all other races and ethnicities comprise the majority of the child and young adult age groups.

Substance Abuse Risk in Orange County²

A July 2001 report commissioned by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs presented data on 26 county-level indicators that serve as direct and indirect measures of alcohol and other drug use prevalence and related problems within each of the state's 58 counties. This report is based on a body of research in the field of substance abuse prevention that has identified four major domains of risk for alcohol and drug abuse and related problems, including:

- Community factors, such as the availability of substances, community laws and norms favorable to use, extreme economic deprivation, high rates of transition and mobility and social disorganization;
- Family factors, such as family history of substance abuse, poor family management practices, parental drug use and favorable attitudes toward drug use, and family conflict:
- School factors, such as academic failure, low commitment to school, school-related problem behaviors;
- Individual and peer factors, such as peer rejection, early and persistent problem behavior, alienation and rebelliousness, friends who use drugs, favorable attitudes toward drug use, and early initiation of drug use.

Based on a standardized composite score that combines all 26 indicators in a measure of overall alcohol and other drug abuse risk, Orange County has the third lowest level of substance abuse risk in the state. With reference to the above four domains of risk, Orange County's three-year average (1997-1999) composite rate is considerably below the statewide average rate within each domain. While this profile of county-level conditions related to alcohol and other drug use indicates that the Orange County population as a whole has an overall low level of risk for substance abuse relative to other counties in the state, it is important to note that such aggregate statistics do not address AOD risk conditions at the city/community level or within specific segments of the population.

B. Study Objectives

Broadly stated, the principal goals of the 2002 ATOD Study were to determine the use, exposure to, and perceived health risks associated with using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

More specifically, seven interrelated topics were explored, including:

- 1. Use of tobacco products
- 2. Use of alcohol
- 3. Use of other drugs (prescription and street drugs)
- 4. Alcohol and drug treatment
- 5. Drinking and driving behavior

2

² Source: Community Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Risk, 2001, EMT Group, Inc.



- 6. Opinions and attitudes about issues relating to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- 7. Perceived risks associated with use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs

In addition, detailed demographic information was also collected.

C. Study Methodology

To achieve the broad study goals, data for the study was based on a total of 3,104 CATI interviews (computer assisted telephone interviews) using a Random Digit Dialing protocol. Respondent qualifications for inclusion in the study included:

- Males and females
- Aged 18 years and older
- Resident of Orange County, California

Sample Design

The 2002 ATOD sample was drawn from the total, non-institutionalized Orange County, California adult population residing in telephone-equipped dwelling units. This population excluded adults:

- In penal, mental, or other institutions
- Living in group quarters (dormitories, barracks, convents, boarding houses, etc.)
- Contacted at their "second" dwelling unit during a stay of less than 30 days
- Living in a dwelling unit without a telephone
- Who did not speak English, Spanish or Vietnamese well enough to be interviewed

The study sample was based on a dual-frame sample design consisting of targeted, list-assisted, disproportionate, stratified random probability sample, supplemented with Vietnamese surname list to produce a minimum of 3,000 interviews with qualified respondents. A detailed description of the sample design and sampling procedures is contained in a separate data collection processes report for the Orange County Health Care Agency by ORC Macro, the data collection vendor.

To ensure representation in the sample, race/ethnic quotas were established for self-identifying Hispanics/Latinos and Vietnamese. In addition, a target of a minimum of 300 interviews conducted in Spanish was also established. The table following shows the quota targets and actual number of completed interviews.



| 2002 ATOD SURVEY COMPLETED INTERVIEWS | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Target (Quota) | Actual | | | | | | | |
| Hispanic/Latino | 700 | 774 | | | | | | | |
| (Spanish language) | (300) | (524) | | | | | | | |
| (English language) | (400) | (250) | | | | | | | |
| Vietnamese | 700 | 741 | | | | | | | |
| (Vietnamese language) | (No Quota) | (389) | | | | | | | |
| (English language) | (No Quota) | (352) | | | | | | | |
| All other Orange County residents | 1,600 | 1,589 | | | | | | | |
| Total | 3,000 | 3,104 | | | | | | | |

Respondent Selection

Within each household contacted, the computer randomly selected an adult, based on a roster of the adults residing in the household by gender. The adult that answered the telephone when the interviewer called supplied the roster. If the selected adult was unavailable during the survey period, unable or unwilling to participate, or did not speak English, Spanish, or Vietnamese well enough to be interviewed, no interview was conducted. If a randomly sampled number yielded a business, an institution or group quarters, or other strictly non-residential space, or if it was the occupant's second residence and their stay was less than 30 days, no interview was conducted.

Respondents were not screened for their race/ethnicity or their county of residence prior to the selection of the respondent to be interviewed. This was due to the concern that potential respondents might be more likely to refuse to complete the survey because of the sensitive nature of the race/ethnicity questions. Respondents also were not screened for their county of residence prior to the selection of the respondent because this could provide potential respondents a way to opt out of completing the survey by falsely stating they did not live in Orange County, California.

Data Collection

Data for the 2002 ATOD Survey were collected through 3,104 completed telephone interviews.

Interviewing was conducted by experienced and supervised personnel of ORC Macro, a Division of ORC International. MSI International staff also remotely monitored interviews as they were conducted, from its headquarters office in La Mirada, California.

Additional details relating to interviewing procedures can be summarized as follows:



Type of Interview: Computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI)

■ Interview Length: Average interview lengths by language of interview

were:

English 17.6 minutesSpanish: 19.1 minutesVietnamese: 19.4 minutes

■ Interviewing Hours: Interviewing was conducted during daytime and evening

hours as follows:

Monday – Friday: 9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.
 Saturday – Sunday: 11:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

■ Number of Attempts: Up to 7 attempts were made at different times of day

and on different days of the week.

■ Response Rate:

■ (CASRO) response rate = 16.2% (The rate at which interviews were produced among all identified, potentially eligible residents *plus* those households in which eligibility could not be determined.)

■ <u>Upper bound rate = 48.4%</u> (The upper bound rate is also known as the *cooperation rate*, and is defined as the number of completed interviews divided by the number of completed interviews plus refusals.)

Data Weighting

Because quotas of interviews were completed among Hispanic/Latino and Vietnamese race/ethnic background, all 2002 ATOD Survey data were weighted. A two-staged weighting procedure was used as follows:

- 1. First, weights were computed to account for "within household" selection probability.
- 2. Second, the weights were then post-stratified to known population totals by age within race/ethnicity and gender.

As a result, calculations and computations based on the weighted data are reflective of Orange County's population as a whole and can also be used to estimate population totals by gender and age within a variety of race/ethnicity segments.

Additional details relating to the 2002 ATOD Survey sampling procedures and methodology are available in the 2002 ATOD Data Collection Processes Report furnished under separate cover to the County of Orange Health Care Agency by ORC Macro.

Data Analyses – Significance of Differences

All differences between population segments specified and discussed in the text of this report are significant at the 95% confidence level (p < .05).



D. Sample Characteristics

The following table summarizes the socio-demographic characteristics of the 2002 ATOD Survey sample. Overall, Orange County's Hispanics are considerably less well-educated and less affluent than the county's Asian/Pacific Islanders, Black and Caucasian/White populations. In addition, compared with other ethnic groups, Orange County's Hispanic/Latinos are more likely to have larger families, to have children living at home and to have been born outside the United States.

| BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF SAMPLE BY ETHNICITY | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|--|--|--|
| | | Ethnic Background | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Asian/ Pacific Islander | Black | Hispanic | White | Bi- Racial | Other | | | |
| % Male | 49% | 48% | 55% | 52% | 48% | 48% | 52% | | | |
| % Female | 51% | 52% | 45% | 48% | 52% | 52% | 48% | | | |
| Median Age | 41.0 | 41.0 | 38.0 | 33.0 | 45.0 | 30.0 | 41.0 | | | |
| Mean Age | 43.2 | 41.2 | 38.6 | 35.8 | 47.5 | 36.2 | 40.3 | | | |
| High School Grad or Less | 37% | 22% | 24% | 76% | 23% | 21% | 27% | | | |
| Some College or More | 63% | 78% | 76% | 24% | 77% | 79% | 73% | | | |
| Median Income (\$000's) | \$48.9 | \$47.0 | \$56.6 | \$26.8 | \$64.6 | \$52.3 | \$62.8 | | | |
| Mean Income (\$000's) | \$61.6 | \$58.7 | \$65.3 | \$35.3 | \$74.3 | \$63.8 | \$76.7 | | | |
| % Employed | 62% | 61% | 63% | 62% | 62% | 66% | 45% | | | |
| % Professional/Specialty | 18% | 25% | 17% | 6% | 23% | 16% | 17% | | | |
| % Technical | 12% | 16% | 7% | 8% | 13% | 17% | 7% | | | |
| % Unemployed | 36% | 37% | 35% | 36% | 35% | 34% | 43% | | | |
| % Homemaker | 13% | 11% | 4% | 23% | 9% | 11% | 13% | | | |
| % Retired | 12% | 7% | 11% | 2% | 18% | 2% | 15% | | | |
| Mean Household Size | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.2 55% | 4.7 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.4 | | | |
| % Have Children at Home | 48% | 50% | | 71% | 38% | 48% | 39% | | | |
| % Married | 55% | 61% | 29% | 55% | 54% | 47% | 42% | | | |
| % Born in United States | 64% | 17% | 88% | 27% | 92% | 83% | 58% | | | |



Socio-Demographics and Acculturation

Residents who were of Latino/Hispanic or Vietnamese backgrounds were given the option of being interviewed in their language of choice — English or Spanish, or English or Vietnamese. Two-thirds of the interviews with Hispanic/Latino residents (68%) were conducted in Spanish and slightly more than half of the interviews completed among Vietnamese residents were conducted in Vietnamese. Those opting to be interviewed in English are clearly better-educated, and have significantly higher incomes than their counterparts who chose to be interviewed in Spanish or Vietnamese.

| LANGUAGE OF INTERVIEWS AMONG: | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Hispani Respo | | Vietnamese Respondents | | | | | |
| | Total | Spanish | English | Vietnamese | English | | | | |
| % Male | 49% | 50% | 56% | 43% | 57% | | | | |
| % Female | 51% | 50% | 44% | 57% | 43% | | | | |
| Median Age | 41 | 34 | 31 | 48 | 32 | | | | |
| Mean Age | 43.2 | 36.3 | 34.7 | 48.7 | 33.3 | | | | |
| High School Grad or Less | 37% | 87% | 53% | 65% | 22% | | | | |
| Some College or More | 63% | 13% | 45% | 31% | 77% | | | | |
| Median Income (\$000's) | \$48.9 | \$21.1 | \$44.4 | \$18.3 | \$51.4 | | | | |
| Mean Income (\$000's) | \$61.6 | \$27.0 | \$53.4 | \$28.9 | \$62.9 | | | | |
| % Employed | 62% | 63% | 61% | 46% | 67% | | | | |
| % Professional/Specialty | 18% | 4% | 11% | 7% | 25% | | | | |
| % Technical | 12% | 3% | 19% | 14% | 21% | | | | |
| % Unemployed | 36% | 36% | 35% | 52% | 30% | | | | |
| % Homemaker | 13% | 30% | 9% | 15% | 1% | | | | |
| % Retired | 12% | 1% | 5% | 17% | * | | | | |
| Mean Household Size | 3.5 | 4.9 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 4.2 55% | | | | |
| % Have Children at Home | 48% | 71% | 71% | 48% | | | | | |
| % Married | 55% | 59% | 46% | 74% | 47% | | | | |
| % Born in United States Mean Years in United States | 64% | 8% | 68% | 1% | 17% | | | | |
| | 12.1 | 10.7 | 15.0 | 10.5 | 13.7 | | | | |



The distribution of the sample by age and within gender for the three largest ethnic groups is shown below.

| AGE BY GENDER WITHIN ETHNIC GROUPS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| | To | otal Sar | nple | Pac | Asian | := | | Hispani | ics | | White | • |
| <u>Age</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
| 18-24 | 13% | 14% | 12% | 13% | 14% | 11% | 21% | 22% | 20% | 8% | 9% | 8% |
| 25-34 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 33 | 34 | 32 | 17 | 18 | 16 |
| 35-44 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 21 |
| 45-54 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| 55-64 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 65+ | 13 | 10 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 16 | 22 |
| Median (Yrs.) | 41.0 | 41.0 | 42.0 | 41.0 | 40.0 | 41.0 | 33.0 | 32.0 | 33.0 | 45.0 | 44.0 | 47.0 |
| Mean (Yrs.) | 43.2 | 42.1 | 44.4 | 41.2 | 40.7 | 41.2 | 35.8 | 35.4 | 36.2 | 47.5 | 45.3 | 47.2 |

The sample's age distribution reflects the same general pattern of ethnic variation as the Orange County population: Whites comprise a larger segment of the older age categories while Hispanics are over-represented among the younger adult (18-34) age groups.



E. Perceptions of Overall Health

Overall, Orange County residents reported that they are in good health. Across the board, more than eight out of ten (85%) respondents said they are in either excellent, very good, or good health, and over half stated that their health is either excellent or very good (54%). Fewer than one in seven residents said their health is either only fair (12%) or poor (2%).

As can be seen in the graph below, this pattern is relatively consistent among residents aged 18-54 years, after which fewer residents reported that their health is good and more stated that their health is only fair or poor. This age trend is most evident among those 65 and older where significantly fewer, only 14%, reported excellent health and almost one in four (23%) said their health is fair or poor.

55-64 65+

PERCEPTIONS OF OVERALL HEALTH

Perceptions of overall health also related to education and income, with better health reported among more affluent residents than those with lower incomes. In addition, Hispanics (13%) were less likely to report their health as excellent compared with Asian/Pacific Islanders (21%) and Whites (29%).

Also of note, health perceptions differed between Hispanics and Vietnamese who elected to be interviewed in English compared with those who were interviewed in Spanish and Vietnamese. In both cases, those who were interviewed in English said their health is better than those who were interviewed in Spanish or Vietnamese, which could be a result of both higher incomes and educational attainment among the English speakers.



II. TOBACCO USE IN ORANGE COUNTY

According to a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) analysis of data on cigarette smoking from the 2000 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Orange County has the lowest prevalence of tobacco use (13%) among 99 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) studied throughout the nation.

A. Tobacco Use Prevalence

The findings from the 2002 ATOD Survey show that an estimated 836,000 Orange County residents have ever smoked cigarettes (40%), of which 315,000 are current smokers (15%)—that is, they self-identify as current smokers. Approximately 521,000 residents are former smokers (25%), of which 396,000 stopped smoking more than a year ago and the remaining 125,000 reported that they quit during the past year. The remaining 1,229,000 residents have never smoked (59%). Overall, the prevalence of smoking among Orange County adults is considerably lower than comparable prevalence rates at the national and California state levels as reported by the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (see Appendix: Comparison of Substance Use Prevalence Rates).

Having ever smoked was highest among individuals aged 55 years and older (52%), followed by those aged 45-54 (41%) and those aged 18-44 years (36%). The decline in trial and use of cigarettes among Orange County residents of various ages parallels the increasing efforts of the past 30 years to discourage tobacco use.

Smoking is both gender and age related. The following table shows that far fewer females have ever smoked than males (33% versus 49%, respectively). And, even though current use has declined to 15% of the adult population, current use is above average among those aged 18-24 years (20%).

As is also apparent in the table below, smoking cessation increases with age, particularly among those aged 55 and older. This is a function of the fact that more individuals aged 45+ are being advised to quit smoking (see later section — Influence of Medical Professionals) and also because there were more of this age group who had taken up smoking than among today's younger aged individuals.

| TOBACCO USE PREVALENCE | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Gender Age | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | 18 - 24 | 25 - 34 | 35 - 44 | 45 - 54 | 55 - 64 | 65+ |
| Current Quit during past 12 months Quit over a year ago Never smoked Don't Know/Refused | 15% 6 19 59 | 19% 7 22 51 1 | 11% 5 17 67 * | 20% 6 10 64 * | 16% 5 14 65 * | 16% 5 17 62 * | 15% 7 19 59 * | 15% 7 30 48 * | 10% 9 33 48 * |
| (*) Less than 0.5 percent | | | | | | | | | |



Additionally, nonsmokers were asked whether anyone in their households smoke. About one in ten nonsmokers, or 11% of the county's entire population, report that someone in their household is a smoker. This suggests that 26% of Orange County adults live in households that have one or more smokers (15% of current smokers + 11% among nonsmokers).

Cigarette Smoker Profiles

While the table in the preceding section illustrates the proportions of smokers by gender and age, it is also useful to profile the various user groups with reference to the demographic characteristics of the total population. As can be seen in the profile table following, although men represent 49% of the total adult population of the County, they represent an entire 63% of current cigarette smokers. Additionally, it would appear that fewer men have stopped smoking compared with women. This inference is supported by the fact that while men represent 59% of those who have ever smoked, they comprise 63% of current smokers. By contrast, while women account for 41% of the county's population that has ever smoked, females represent only 37% of current smokers.

As can also be seen, the profile of current cigarette smokers differs from the general population in both age and ethnic background. Relative to their numbers in the population, fewer residents aged 65 years and older are current smokers, and Whites are disproportionately more likely to be current smokers than Asian/Pacific Islanders and persons of Hispanic descent.

| PROFILE OF CIGARETTE SMOKERS | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Current Smokers | % of Those Who Quit In Past Year | % of Those Who Quit More Than A Year Ago | % of Those Ever Smoked | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 63% | 58% | 56% | 59% | 49% | | | | | |
| Female | 37 | 42 | 44 | 41 | 51 | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 17% | 12% | 6% | 11% | 13% | | | | | |
| 25-34 | 23 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 22 | | | | | |
| 35-44 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 23 | | | | | |
| 45-54 | 17 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 18 | | | | | |
| 55-64 | 12 | 12 | 18 | 15 | 11 | | | | | |
| 65+ | 8 | 18 | 22 | 16 | 13 | | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | 9% | 12% | 7% | 9% | 14% | | | | | |
| Black | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 22 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 27 | | | | | |
| White | 66 | 62 | 67 | 65 | 56 | | | | | |
| Bi-Racial | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Other | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Total | 315,000 | 125,000 | 396,000 | 836,000 | 2,078,000 | | | | | |



B. <u>Cigarette Consumption Patterns</u>

Cigarette consumption patterns among current smokers were also obtained, in terms of both the frequency of smoking and quantities smoked.

The majority of Orange County's smokers smoke daily — eight of ten Orange County smokers (79%) said they smoked daily during the past month. On average, current smokers smoked **26.0 of the past 30 days**. Relatively few individuals who are current smokers are "occasional smokers" (i.e. they smoke only infrequently or only in particular settings such as at nightclubs).

Translated into population estimates, these findings suggest that almost 250,000 residents smoke daily, compared with 65,000 who smoke less often.

Even though the average number of days smoked did not differ by gender or age, men were more likely to smoke every day than women (15% versus 9%, respectively). And, consistent with the above-average prevalence of smoking among Whites relative to Asian/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics, Whites were also more likely to smoke every day (15%) than Pacific Islanders (8%) and Hispanics (9%).

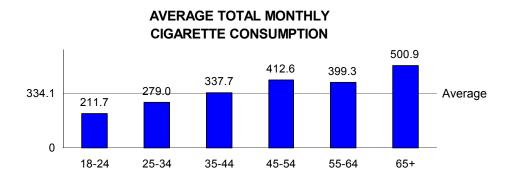
| NUMBER OF DAYS SMOKED CIGARETTES IN PAST 30 DAYS | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Number of Days | % of Orange County Smokers | % of Orange County Adult Population | # of Orange County Adults | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1% | 85% | 1,769,000 | | | | | | |
| 1 – 5 | 6 | 1 | 26,000 | | | | | | |
| 6 – 19 | 5 | 1 | 14,000 | | | | | | |
| 20 – 29 | 7 | 1 | 22,000 | | | | | | |
| 30 | 79 | 12 | 247,000 | | | | | | |
| Don't Know | 1 | * | NÁ | | | | | | |

Monthly Total Cigarette Consumption

In addition to indicating how often they smoke, current smokers also furnished estimates of the average number of cigarettes they smoked per day during the past month. On average, Orange County's **current smokers stated that they smoked 11.1 cigarettes per day**, or just over half a pack.

Estimates of total monthly cigarette consumption were developed by multiplying each smoker's stated frequency of smoking and quantity smoked on a typical day. Although the average number of days smoked per month did not differ significantly by age, because smokers aged 45-54 and 65+ smoke more cigarettes, their total monthly consumption was about double that of the county's 18-24 year-old smokers.





Total monthly cigarette consumption also differed by ethnic background, with Whites consuming an average monthly total of 406.3 cigarettes per month, compared with significantly less consumption among Asian/Pacific Islander smokers (253.8 cigarettes) and Hispanic smokers (149.3 cigarettes). Total monthly cigarette consumption did not vary significantly between men (324.4 cigarettes) and women (350.9 cigarettes).

C. Smoking Cessation and the Social Environment

Even though the social environment has become increasingly less conducive to smoking, almost half of Orange County's current smokers have not attempted to stop smoking. Almost one of three current smokers (29%) said they simply don't want to quit smoking and another 17% stated they would like to quit but have not really tried.

The difficulty in stopping smoking is evident in that the majority of current smokers, 54%, had attempted to stop at least once. In terms of the county's population, this means that almost 170,000 residents had made an effort to stop smoking but were unsuccessful.

| DISPOSITION TOWARD QUITTING SMOKING | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Orange County Smokers | % of Orange County Adult Population | # of Orange County Adults | | | | | | |
| I have tried to quit many times I tried to quit one time I would like to quit but haven't | 36% | 5% | 112,000 | | | | | | |
| | 18 | 3 | 56,000 | | | | | | |
| really tried I do not want to quit | 17 | 3 | 52,000 | | | | | | |
| | 29 | 4 | 92,000 | | | | | | |



Several demographic and behavioral factors were also examined in relation to efforts to stop smoking. Of note, frequent binge drinkers (those who reported consuming 5+ drinks on 5 or more occasions during the past 30 days) were more likely than the county's smoker population at large to report not wanting to quit smoking (40% versus 29%). No other groups were significantly more or less likely to want to quit smoking.

Influence of Medical Professionals

Half of the smoking sample (49%) reported being advised by a doctor or other medical professional to stop smoking. This means that medical professionals have attempted to influence smoking behavior among approximately 155,000 current smokers, or about 7.5% of the county's adult population. However, there are yet as many county residents who are current smokers that have not been counseled by the medical profession to quit smoking cigarettes.

As might be expected, the likelihood of having been advised to quit smoking increases with age, with three of four residents aged 65 and older having been advised to stop smoking. Several factors could influence the differences reported by older individuals:

- First, they may have visited a doctor more than younger individuals (i.e., they have had more exposure)
- Second, they probably have been smoking longer and may have presented with symptoms associated with long-term smoking
- Third, they may have presented with symptoms not related to smoking, but have been informed that stopping smoking is strongly recommended

| | MEDICALLY ADVISED TO QUIT SMOKING | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | Total | | A | Age of Curre | nt Smokers | | | | | |
| | Orange County Adult Smokers | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | | | |
| Yes No | 49% 51 | 30% 70 | 38% 62 | 46% 54 | 66% 34 | 60% 40 | 76% 24 | | | |

Smoking Allowed Inside Home

An indicator of the declining social acceptability of cigarette smoking is whether or not smoking is permitted in the home. During the past several decades, attitudes have shifted dramatically, with increasingly more homeowners and landlords not permitting smoking inside residences.

Although 15% of the county's adult population smokes, only 10% of households permit smoking in the home. At the same time, 26% of Orange County adults live in a household with one or more smokers.



| SMOKING ALLOWED INSIDE HOME | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Total | | | | | | |
| Allow Smoking In Home | 10% | | | | | | |
| Number of days per week someone smokes in home | | | | | | | |
| 6 – 7 days | 5 | | | | | | |
| 4 – 5 days | 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 – 3 days | * | | | | | | |
| 1 day | * | | | | | | |
| Less often | 3 | | | | | | |
| Mean Days Per Week | 3.6 | | | | | | |
| Do Not Allow Smoking In Home | 90% | | | | | | |

Differences in allowing smoking in homes of those from various ethnic backgrounds mirror the variations in cigarette use reported in the earlier sections of this chapter, including lower tolerance for smoking in the home among Asian American/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics relative to Whites. While 12% of Whites allow smoking in the home, only 8% of Asian American/Pacific Islanders and 4% of Hispanics do so.

Sensitivity to smoking within the home may also relate to continuing efforts to heighten awareness of secondhand smoke. Residents who are in their child-rearing years are least likely to allow smoking within their residences. Only 6%-7% of those aged 25-44 permit smoking in the home, while about twice as many among those who are either younger or older (18-24 = 12%; 45-64 = 15%; 65 and older = 16%) allow smoking in the home.

Permitting smoking in the home is also related to unhealthy lifestyle behaviors such as heavy drinking and drug use. Above-average likelihood of allowing smoking in the home is evident among individuals that have used both alcohol and drugs in the past month and also among frequent binge drinkers. More specifically:

- Almost one in three individuals who had used both alcohol and drugs in the past 30 days permitted smoking in the home (29%)
- Over one in four frequent binge drinkers allowed smoking in the home (28%)

Smoking Allowed In Car

As is the case with smoking in homes, smoking in cars has also declined dramatically during the past several decades. In Orange County, 15% of the adult population allows smoking in one or more of their cars, more than the 10% that permit smoking in the home.

| ALLOW SMOKING IN CAR | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Percentage | | | | |
| Yes No | 15% 83 | | | | |
| Don't have a car | 2 | | | | |



Not surprisingly, demographic groups with below-average and above-average likelihood of allowing smoking in their cars parallel those who permit smoking in the home. Women are less likely than men to permit smoking in their car (12% versus 18%, respectively) and Hispanics (9%) and Asian American/Pacific Islanders (12%) are less likely to allow smoking in their cars than Whites (19%).

Consistent with the groups most likely to permit smoking in homes, frequent binge drinkers (36%), those aged 18-24 (27%) and those who have used both alcohol and drugs in the past 30 days (26%) are the population segments most likely to permit smoking in their cars.

Number Of Friends Who Smoke

Another qualitative measure of the use of tobacco and other substances is whether individuals associate with people who are users. Consequently, survey respondents were asked to indicate how many of their friends smoke.

Although some 15% of Orange County residents said that they smoke, fewer, 10% of all residents, indicated that "many" of their friends smoke cigarettes and almost three-fourths stated either "none" or "very few" of their friends smoke (71%).

With men comprising two-thirds of the county's smokers, it is not surprising that fewer women than men said they have friends who are smokers. As can also be seen in the table below, having friends who smoke is highest among 18-24 year olds and declines steadily with advancing age.

| HOW MANY FRIENDS SMOKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|--------|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|------------|-----|--|--|--|
| | | Gender | | | Gender Age | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | | | |
| Very Few/None | 71% | 64% | <u>78%</u> | 55% | 64% | 71% | <u>78%</u> | <u>75%</u> | 87% | | | |
| None | 29 | 20 | 38 | 19 | 27 | 32 | 27 | 30 | 39 | | | |
| Very few | 42 | 44 | 40 | 36 | 37 | 39 | 51 | 45 | 48 | | | |
| Some | 18 | 22 | 14 | 25 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 18 | 9 | | | |
| Many | 10 | 14 | 7 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 3 | | | |
| Don't know/refused | 1 | 1 | 1 | * | * | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | | | |

As was the case with permitting smoking in the home and cars, having many friends who smoke was highest among frequent binge drinkers (39%) and those who had used both alcohol and drugs in the past 30 days (23%).

D. Use of Other Tobacco Products

Use of tobacco products other than cigarettes was very low. Only 3% of all Orange County residents reported using any tobacco product other than cigarettes in the past 30 days. Cigar smoking, reported by 1%, was the other tobacco product most used, followed by tobacco in a pipe, chewing tobacco and snuff, all reported by less than 0.5% of residents.



| Use of Other Tobacco Products | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Yes, Use Other Tobacco Products | 3% |
| Used in Past 30 Days | |
| Cigars | 1 |
| Tobacco in a pipe | * |
| Chewing tobacco | * |
| Snuff | * |
| Clove, Kretek, Bidis | * |
| Not in past 30 days | 1 |
| Do Not Use Other Tobacco Products | <u>97%</u> |



III. ALCOHOL USE IN ORANGE COUNTY

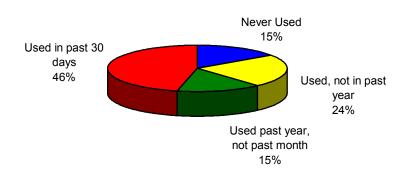
This chapter presents survey findings related to the use or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

A. Alcohol Use Prevalence

In total, approximately 1,768,000 residents, or 85% of Orange County's adult population, have used alcohol on at least one occasion during their lifetime. About 1,274,000 (61%) of the county's adults consumed an alcoholic beverage in the past year. Thus, about seven out of ten of the county's adults that had ever had an alcoholic beverage consumed alcohol on one or more occasions during the past year.

An estimated 961,000, or 46% of the county's adults, had one or more alcoholic beverages during the past month, with the remaining 313,000 drinking within the past year, but not within the past month. Overall, the prevalence of alcohol use in Orange County is comparable to national rates and state estimates of past month use (see Appendix). The Orange County rate of past-month binge drinking, however, is lower than both the national and state levels (14.6% vs. 21.8 and 20.4, respectively).

ORANGE COUNTY ALCOHOL USE PREVALENCE



Having ever consumed alcohol is related to gender and ethnic background. Fewer women than men said they have consumed alcohol on at least one occasion (79% among women versus 91% among men). Similarly, fewer Asian American/Pacific Islanders (64%) and Hispanics (79%) reported having consumed alcohol, compared with 94% among White adults.

Demographic Differences In Past 30-Day Alcohol Use

Over 950,000 of the county's adults had one or more alcoholic beverages during the past month. The likelihood of having had a drink differs considerably on a wide variety of socio-demographic characteristics. The table following illustrates some of the salient differences



among key demographic groups and also shows differences based on the age at which an individual reports having had an initial experience with alcohol. In addition, findings relating to past 30-day drinking prevalence rates among individuals who can be characterized as being "less acculturated" are presented ("less acculturated" individuals are defined as Hispanics who preferred to be interviewed in Spanish and Vietnamese who preferred to be interviewed in the Vietnamese language).

As can be seen in the table below,

- Those who were <u>more likely</u> to have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days were persons who were more affluent, men, college graduates, self-identifying as White, with no children in the household and had their first drink before the age of 18.
- In contrast, those who were <u>less likely</u> to have consumed alcohol in the past 30 days were persons who were <u>less acculturated Vietnamese and Hispanics</u>, women, those claiming Asian descent, individuals with low levels of educational attainment, those with annual household incomes below \$40,000, and those who were 55-64 years old.

| Demographics | Above-Average Likelihood | Below-Average Likelihood | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Gender | Male (56%) | Female (37%) | | | | |
| Age | | ■ 55 – 64 yrs old (40%) | | | | |
| Education | College Grad + (54%) | Some High School or less (31%) | | | | |
| Income | • \$60,000+ (61%) | Under \$40,000 (36%) | | | | |
| Children In Home | No children (53%) | Children (40%) | | | | |
| Ethnicity | • White (56%) | Asian (31%)Vietnamese (27%) | | | | |
| Age Of First Drink Acculturation | 12 – 17 yrs (64%) 12 – 15 yrs (68%) | • 21+ yrs (38%) | | | | |
| Hispanic | | Less acculturated (29%) | | | | |
| Vietnamese | | Less acculturated (18%) | | | | |

Alcohol User Profiles

The following table shows the profiles of those who consumed alcohol during the past 30 days compared with those who consumed alcohol during the past year but not during the past 30 days, those who have consumed alcohol in the past year, and those who ever consumed alcohol -- relative to the county's adult population. In this way, segments with



disproportionately high or disproportionately low representation in the user groups are easily identified.

Consistent with the gender and ethnic background information presented in the previous section, *men* and individuals self-identifying as *Whites* are *above average* in their likelihood of being *past 30-day alcohol users*.

In contrast, women and Hispanics are disproportionately higher in their likelihood of being an occasional alcohol user (used in past year, but not in past 30 days).

| | F | PROFILE OF ALCOH | OL USERS | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population |
| Gender | | | | | |
| Male | 60% | 45% | 56% | 53% | 49% |
| Female | 40 | 55 | 44 | 47 | 51 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 13% | 15% | 13% | 12% | 13% |
| 25-34 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| 35-44 | 23 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 23 |
| 45-54 | 20 | 17 | 19 | 19 | 18 |
| 55-64 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 11 |
| 65+ | 11 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | 10% | 14% | 11% | 11% | 14% |
| Black | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Hispanic | 20 | 30 | 22 | 25 | 27 |
| White | 67 | 52 | 64 | 62 | 56 |
| Bi-Racial | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | <u>961,000</u> | <u>313,000</u> | <u>1,274,000</u> | <u>1,768,000</u> | 2,078,000 |

B. Alcohol Consumption Patterns

Numerous questions to assess alcohol consumption behavior were asked of Orange County residents who drink alcohol. These questions included estimates of how often they consume alcoholic beverages and the number of drinks they typically consume on drinking occasions.

Alcoholic Beverage Consumption Frequency

To obtain an estimate of the number of days during which alcohol was consumed in the past 12 months, residents chose one of three alternatives.

- 1. The average number of days per week during the past 12 months;
- 2. The average number of days per month during the past 12 months; or
- 3. The total number of days during the past 12 months.



This procedure was used because consumer recollection of consumption behavior varies significantly between frequent versus occasional users, as well as through time. An estimate of the number of days during which alcohol was consumed during the past year for the entire survey sample was then constructed by multiplying the per-week and per-month consumption occasions by 52 and 12, respectively, and adding those to the responses of residents who furnished annual totals.

Past year Orange County alcohol users reported drinking alcoholic beverages on an <u>average</u> of 77.2 days per year, or about 1.5 days per week.

Not surprisingly, demographic differences in the average number of days per year alcohol is consumed essentially mirror the demographic differences in past 30-day consumption. That is, demographic groups with an above-average likelihood of past 30-day consumption were also likely to report drinking alcohol on more days per year than those with a below-average likelihood of drinking during the past month.

| | Above-Ave | erage | Below-Average | ge |
|--------------------|--|----------------|---|----------------|
| Demographics | | Avg. # Days | | Avg. # Days |
| Gender | Male | 85.6 | Female | 66.0 |
| Age | 65+ yrs old | 127.1 | ■ 18 – 24 yrs old | 60.8 |
| Education | Post Grad | 94.8 | Some High School or less | 60.9 |
| Income | \$100,000 | 98.7 | Less than \$40,000 | 67.5 |
| Children In Home | No children | 91.9 | Children in Home | 61.1 |
| Ethnicity | • White | 88.1 | Asian/Pacific IslanderHispanic | 55.2 52.2 |
| Age Of First Drink | Under 1515 – 17 yrs | 97.2 86.9 | | |

Past 30-Day Alcohol Consumption Frequency

Forty-six percent of Orange County residents had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. These individuals also were asked to indicate on how many of the past 30 days they had consumed one or more drinks. These individuals reported having one or more drinks on an average of 7.1 of the past 30 days, or about one out of every four days.

Consistent with their lower likelihood of consuming alcohol in the past 30 days, women reported drinking on fewer days than men - 6.4 days versus 7.6 days, respectively. The following table shows that daily alcohol consumption increases slightly with age until age 64, after which one in five residents aged 65 and older report having one or more drinks daily.



| PAST 30-DAY ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION FREQUENCY | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| | | Ge | nder | | | Ą | ge | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | 18- 24 | 25- 34 | 35- 44 | 45- 54 | 55- 64 | 65+ |
| 1 – 2 | 44% | 41% | 49% | 43% | 44% | 49% | 49% | 41% | 31% |
| 3 – 4 | 18 | 19 | 15 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 13 | 22 | 12 |
| 5 – 7 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 12 |
| 8 – 14 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 10 |
| 15 - 24 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 14 | 11 |
| 25 - 29 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 30 days | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 19 |
| Median # of days Mean # of days | 3.0 7.1 | 3.0 7.6 | 3.0 6.4 | 3.0 5.3 | 3.0 6.1 | 3.0 6.7 | 3.0 7.0 | 3.0 7.9 | <u>5.0</u> 11.3 |

Number of Drinks Per Occasion In Past Month

In addition to past 30-day alcohol consumption frequency, typical per-occasion quantity estimates were obtained – in terms of the usual number of drinks consumed on the days residents drank.

The number of drinks per drinking occasion differed significantly by both gender and age:

- Males reported consuming an average of 3.3 drinks per drinking occasion compared with 2.0 among females
- The reported number of drinks per drinking occasion declined with age from 3.8 among those aged 18-34 to 1.7 among those aged 55 and older

| USUAL NUMBER OF DRINKS PER DRINKING OCCASION IN PAST 30 DAYS | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Ge | nder | | | Α | ge | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | 18- 24 | 25- 34 | 35- 44 | 45- 54 | 55- 64 | 65+ |
| One | 42% | 34% | 53% | 22% | 29% | 42% | 47% | 55% | 66% |
| Two | 25 | 22 | 28 | 17 | 21 | 27 | 31 | 32 | 20 |
| Three | 12 | 14 | 10 | 13 | 18 | 14 | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| Four | 6 | 8 | 3 | 14 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Five or more | 15 | 22 | 6 | 34 | 23 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 3 |
| Median Mean | 2.0 2.8 | 2.0 3.3 | 1.0 2.0 | 3.0 4.1 | 2.0 3.6 | 2.0 2.5 | 2.0 2.6 | 1.0 1.7 | 1.0 1.7 |

In addition to gender and age, the amount of alcohol usually consumed also differs by other demographic variables. Those who reported consuming an above-average number of drinks per drinking occasion were more likely to be unmarried residents and those who had not attended college. In contrast, below-average number of drinks per consumption occasion were reported by those who were aged 55+, were married, and had some college or more.



| PER-OCCASION ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Above-Average | Among | Below-Average | • Among | | | | | |
| Demographics | | Avg. # Drinks | | Avg. # Drinks | | | | | |
| Gender | Males | 3.3 | Females | 2.0 | | | | | |
| Age | 18-34 | 3.8 | ■ 55+ yrs | 1.7 | | | | | |
| Education | High School Grad or less | 3.5 | Some College + | 2.4 | | | | | |
| Income | Under \$40,000 | 3.2 | | | | | | | |
| Marital Status | Not married | 4.6 | Married | 2.4 | | | | | |
| Ethnicity | Bi-Racial | 3.8 | White | 2.5 | | | | | |
| | Hispanic | 3.1 | | | | | | | |

Total Drinks In Past 30 Days

Estimates of the total number of drinks consumed during the past month were created by multiplying the number of drinking occasions by the usual number of drinks consumed. On average, Orange County residents who consumed alcohol in the past month had 21.4 drinks. However, there are significant differences in the total number of drinks consumed between men versus women and by age. As can be seen in the table following:

- Men report drinking twice as many drinks as women (26.4 vs. 13.7, respectively)
- One in four men drinks 30 or more drinks per month (25%)
- One in four residents aged 18–24 or 65+ drinks 30 or more drinks per month this may be attributable to younger residents drinking on fewer days than older residents, but consuming more drinks per occasion. In contrast, while older residents drink fewer drinks per occasion, they also drink more often.

| | TOTAL DRINKS IN PAST 30 DAYS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | | Ge | ender | | | A | ge | | | Ethnicity | | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | 18- 24 | 25- 34 | 35- 44 | 45- 54 | 55- 64 | 65+ | Asian/ Pacific Islander | Black | His- panic | White |
| 1 – 4 Drinks | 42% | 36% | 51% | 28% | 40% | 47% | 47% | 49% | 38% | 52% | NA | 47% | 40% |
| 5 – 9 Drinks | 16 | 15 | 16 | 21 | 17 | 12 | 17 | 17 | 10 | 19 | NA | 16 | 15 |
| 10 - 19 Drinks | 12 | 14 | 9 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 13 | NA | 9 | 12 |
| 20 - 29 Drinks | 9 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 14 | 12 | 5 | NA | 6 | 10 |
| 30+ Drinks | 21 | 27 | 14 | 25 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 13 | 25 | 11 | NA | 22 | 23 |
| Median # of | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drinks Mean # of | 6.0 | 9.0 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 8.0 | 6.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 4.0 | NA | 5.0 | 8.0 |
| Drinks | 21.4 | 26.4 | 13.7 | 23.7 | 27.9 | 18.1 | 19.9 | 14.1 | 21.0 | 14.7 | NA | 22.2 | 21.4 |



Because men reported a monthly consumption rate double that of women, additional analyses were performed to determine which demographic segments among male and female respondents account for disproportionately more or less consumption compared with their proportionate representation in the total population.

The graph following illustrates these findings, and shows the dramatic differences in total monthly consumption between men and women — regardless of age or ethnic background. The relationships shown are based on an index created by dividing the percent of total monthly drinks accounted for by individual population segments by the percent of Orange County's population represented by that individual segment. Thus, a score of "100" would mean that a segment accounts for the same proportion of total drinks as its proportion of population. Scores above "100" indicate disproportionately high consumption and scores below "100" indicate disproportionately low consumption relative to population.

As can be seen, the population segment with the highest consumption index score is men aged 25-34 (index score = 232), followed by White males (index score = 177) and men aged 65+ (index score =165). In contrast, Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic females are the two segments with the lowest monthly alcohol consumption relative to their presence in the Only Asian/Pacific Islander males and men aged 55-64 account for disproportionately low monthly alcohol consumption. In contrast, all segments of the female population are below their male counterparts.

Index Score "100" 149 18-24 232 25-34 109 35-44 45-54 Male Female 55-64 65+ Asian/Pacific Islander Hispanic White

TOTAL MONTHLY ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION INDEX

The usefulness of the analysis above is that it clearly illustrates demographic segments that can be targeted for alcohol consumption reduction efforts.



C. Alcohol Problem Risk Factors

The age at which individuals first initiate use of alcohol or other substances is well known among the alcoholism and substance abuse treatment community as a "risk factor." That is, the potential for experiencing problems with alcohol or drugs later in life is greater among those whose initial use experience is at a younger age compared to those who delay their first use until they are more mature.

Another risk factor for alcohol abuse and related problems is "binge drinking," generally defined as the consumption of 5 or more alcoholic beverages on 1 occasion. An extensive body of research has demonstrated that binge drinking is associated with adverse health effects, unintentional injuries (motor vehicle crashes, falls, drowning), and other consequences that have especially high social and economic costs (homicide, assault, domestic violence, rape, child abuse, unintended pregnancy, and child neglect).

Age Of First Drink

The age at which Orange County's adults report having consumed their first alcoholic beverage is clearly related to respondents' current age and gender.

- Four of ten Orange County residents (42%) had an alcoholic beverage before age 18 and almost one in four had their first alcoholic beverage before age 16.
- On average, males had their first alcoholic beverage at age 17.1. In contrast, females deferred their initial experience with alcohol by more than 1 ½ years, until they were 18.8 years old, on average.
- The prevalence of having an initial alcoholic beverage experience under age 18 is significantly higher among Orange County's younger adults than among those aged 45 years and older. Half of the county's adults aged 18-44 had their first alcoholic beverage before they turned 18, significantly higher than among those aged 45 and older (33%).

| AGE OF FIRST DRINK | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| | | Ge | nder | | | A | ge | | | |
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | 18- <u>24</u> | 25- <u>34</u> | 35- <u>44</u> | 45- <u>54</u> | 55- <u>64</u> | <u>65+</u> | |
| % Under 12 | 4% | 7% | 2% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 2% | 3% | 4% | |
| % Under 13 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 5 | |
| % Under 15 | 16 | 21 | 11 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 9 | |
| % Under 16 | 24 | 31 | 17 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 18 | 16 | 12 | |
| % Under 17 | 35 | 44 | 27 | 47 | 43 | 42 | 29 | 23 | 18 | |
| % Under 18 | 42 | 51 | 33 | 56 | 48 | 48 | 40 | 30 | 25 | |
| Median Age Mean Age | 17.0 17.9 | 17.0 17.1 | 18.0 18.8 | 16.0 16.0 | 16.0 16.9 | 17.0 17.0 | 18.0 18.5 | 18.0 19.0 | 18.0 20.5 | |



| AGE OF FIRST DRINK | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--|--|
| | | Ethnic Background | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Asian/ Pacific Islander | Black | Hispanic | White | Bi- Racial | Other | | |
| % Under 12 | 4% | 2% | 2% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 10% | | |
| % Under 13 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 10 | | |
| % Under 15 | 16 | 6 | 28 | 13 | 19 | 31 | 14 | | |
| % Under 16 | 24 | 8 | 38 | 21 | 29 | 44 | 21 | | |
| % Under 17 | 35 | 13 | 50 | 29 | 43 | 53 | 31 | | |
| % Under 18 | 42 | 16 | 57 | 35 | 52 | 62 | 33 | | |
| Median Age Mean Age | 17.0 17.9 | 19.0 20.1 | 16.0 17.0 | 18.0 18.4 | 17.0 17.4 | 16.0 15.8 | 16.0 16.0 | | |

Binge Drinking Prevalence

Binge drinking behavior was also explored among Orange County residents by having past 30 day users report on the number of days during the past 30 days that they had 5 or more drinks on the same occasion — that is, at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other. Overall, one-third of Orange County's past-30 day drinkers (33%) reported at least one binge drinking episode in the past month. Of those, 24% reported 1-4 binge drinking episodes in the past 30 days, while 9% reported binge drinking on 5 or more occasions during the past month (frequent binge drinking). Based on population, this latter finding suggests that there are about 78,000 frequent binge drinkers among the county's adults.

As was the case with total drinks per month, males and those aged 18-34 were much more likely to engage in binge drinking than females and those aged 35 and older.

Also of note is the 2.2 average number of past-month binge drinking episodes among Hispanics. With only 18% of Hispanic women having consumed alcohol in the past month, the vast majority of binge drinking occasions among the county's Hispanic population is accounted for by males. Indeed, while Hispanic males represent 76% of past 30-day Hispanic alcohol users, they account for an entire 90% of reported binge drinking occasions among Hispanics.

| NUMBER OF PAST-MONTH BINGE DRINKING EPISODES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | | Ger | nder | Age | | | | | Ethnicity | | | |
| | Total | Male | Fe- male | 18- 24 | 25- 34 | 35- 44 | 45- 54 | 55- 64 | 65+ | Asian/ Pacific Islander | Hisp | White |
| 0 Days 1 – 4 Days 5 or more | 67% 24 | 56% 31 | 82% 14 | 42% 41 | 56% 34 | 71% 21 | 74% 19 | 83% 13 | 81% 11 | 70% 24 | 53% 36 | 71% 21 |
| days Mean # of Days | 9 1.5 | 13 2.2 | 4 0.5 | 17 2.7 | 10 2.2 | 8 1.2 | 7 1.3 | 0.3 | 8 0.9 | 6 0.8 | 11 2.2 | 8 1.4 |



Profile of Frequent Binge Drinkers

The frequent binge drinker profile differs significantly from the profile of past 30-day drinkers and Orange County's population at large.

- Almost nine out of ten frequent binge drinkers are males (88%)
- Half of all frequent binge drinkers are aged 18-34, double the incidence in the population at large
- Almost two—thirds of frequent binge drinkers are single and 38% of them have never married double the incidence in the population at large.

| PROFILE OF BINGE DRINKERS | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Frequent Binge Drinkers (5+ episodes) | Binge Drinkers (1-4 episodes) | Used Alcohol Past 30 days | % Of Orange County Adult Population | | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | |
| Male Female | 88% 12 | 80% 20 | 57% 43 | 49% 51 | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 26% | 22% | 10% | 13% | | | | | |
| 25-34 | 30 | 32 | 22 | 22 | | | | | |
| 35-44 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 23 | | | | | |
| 45-54 | 13 | 15 | 20 | 18 | | | | | |
| 55-64 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 11 | | | | | |
| 65+ | 6 | 5 | 13 | 13 | | | | | |
| Median Age | 33.0 | 33.0 | 42.0 | 41.0 | | | | | |
| Mean Age | 35.0 | 36.3 | 44.3 | 43.2 | | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian Pac. Islander | 6% | 9% | 10% | 14% | | | | | |
| Black | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 26 | 28 | 20 | 26 | | | | | |
| White | 62 | 59 | 66 | 55 | | | | | |
| Bi-Racial | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | | | | | |
| H.S. Grad or less | 45% | 40% | 27% | 37% | | | | | |
| Marital Status | | | | | | | | | |
| Single | 65% | 58% | 40% | 44% | | | | | |
| (Never Married) | (38) | (NA) | (18) | (19) | | | | | |
| Married | 35 | 42 | 59 | 55 | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | |
| \$ Median | \$48.1 | \$59.5 | \$64.4 | \$48.9 | | | | | |
| \$ Mean | \$63.7 | \$67.8 | \$74.9 | \$61.6 | | | | | |
| Total | <u>78,000</u> | <u>305,500</u> | <u>773,000</u> | <u>2,078,000</u> | | | | | |



To illustrate the importance of these relationships, a frequent binge drinking index similar to the total monthly alcohol consumption was created. As before, the index shows the degree to which key demographic segments account for disproportionately higher or lower proportions of frequent binge drinking occasions relative to the size of the population segments.

As highlighted in the graph following, it is apparent that:

- Men account for disproportionately far more frequent binge drinking occasions than women regardless of age or ethnic background
- Men aged 18-34 account for almost three times more frequent binge drinking occasions than would be expected based on their representation in the population
- White and Hispanic men account for almost two times more frequent binge drinking occasions than would be expected based on their representation in the population

FREQUENT BINGE DRINKING INDEX Index Score "100" 274 18-24 267 25-34 35-44 35 165 45-54 22 55-64 Male 15 □ Female 127 65+ Asian/Pacific Islander 12 183 Hispanic 22 196 White

Binge Drinking By Gender, Age, and Ethnicity

Additional analyses of binge drinking behavior were conducted to aid in identifying particular targets against which prevention efforts can be directed. Specifically, past-month binge drinking behavior was analyzed by gender and age within the three largest ethnic groups in the County: Whites, Hispanics, and Asian/Pacific Islanders.



Both past-month binge drinking prevalence and the number of reported binge drinking episodes was highest among Hispanic males, followed by White males.

| | Percent of Past- Month Alcohol U O Drinking Episodes | Average Number of D Episodes |
|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Hispanic Males | 54% | 2.6 |
| White Males | 41% | 2.2 |
| Asian Males | 33% | 1.1 |
| Asian Females | 24% | 0.4 |
| Hispanic Females | 22% | 0.9 |
| White Females | 14% | 0.4 |

Among past-month alcohol users, the average number of reported past-month binge drinking episodes differed significantly by age and gender as well as by ethnicity. As can be seen in the following table, reported numbers of past-month binge drinking episodes were highest among 18-24 year old Hispanic and White males, followed by White males aged 25-34 years old.

| | AVERAGE NUMBER OF PAST-MONTH BINGE DRINKING EPISODES | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|
| | Total Sample | | Wh | ite/Cau | casian | | Hispani | ics | Pac | Asian | | |
| <u>Age</u> | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| 18-24 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 1.4 | | 3.6 | 1.0 | | 3.7 | 2.8 | | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| 25-34 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 0.5 | | 3.5 | 0.7 | | 2.6 | 0.1 | | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| 35-44 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 0.6 | | 1.5 | 0.5 | | 2.5 | 0.7 | | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| 45-54 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 0.3 | | 2.4 | 0.1 | | 1.4 | 0.4 | | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| 55-64 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | | 0.2 | 0.5 | | 0.4 | _ | | 0.6 | _ |
| 65+ | 0.9 | 1.8 | * | | 1.8 | 0.1 | | _ | _ | | 0.7 | _ |
| Total * Less than 0.05 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.4 |

In combination, the effect of both the higher past-month binge drinking prevalence and numbers of reported past-month binge drinking episodes among Hispanic and White males is dramatic. As can be seen in the next table, while White males comprise 27% of the county's adult population, they account for over half of all binge drinking episodes (53%). Similarly, while 14% of the county's adult population is made up of Hispanic males, they account for an entire 25% of all binge drinking episodes.



| | Percent of Past- Month Binge Dr s | Percent of |
|------------------|---|------------|
| White Males | 53% | 27% |
| Hispanic Males | 25% | 14% |
| White Females | 8% | 29% |
| Hispanic Females | 6% | 13% |
| Asian Males | 4% | 4% |
| Asian Females | 1% | 5% |

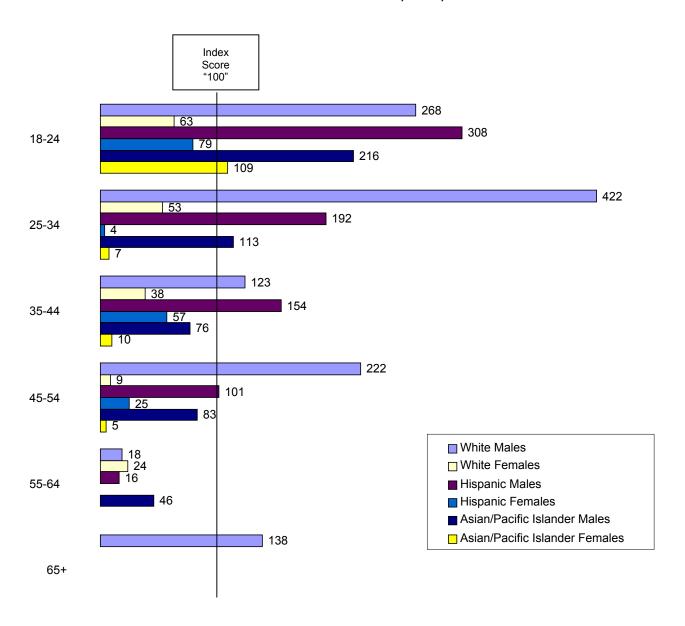
As before, creating an index showing higher and lower proportions of total binge drinking episodes relative to the sizes of age cohorts by gender and ethnic group illustrates the key targets for binge drinking reduction efforts.

As highlighted in the graph following, it is apparent that the priority targets for binge drinking reduction efforts include:

- White Males aged 25-34 (index score 422)
- Hispanic Males aged 18-24 (index score 308)
- White Males aged 18-24 (index score 268)



BINGE DRINKING INDEX BY GENDER, AGE, AND ETHNICITY



Binge Drinking and Marital Status

Binge drinking behavior was also examined among males and females who had never been married. On average, both males and females who have never married reported significantly higher numbers of past-month binge drinking episodes than were reported among all past-month alcohol users. Among males who had never married, the average number of past-month binge drinking episodes was 3.02, significantly higher than the 2.2 average reported among males in general. Similarly, among females who had never married, the 1.16 average number of past-month binge drinking episodes was also significantly higher than the 0.5 average for all females.



Notably, the average number of binge drinking occasions among residents who live alone and who have never been married is lower than among those who have never married but do not live alone.

| AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS BINGE DRINKING DURING PAST MONTH | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Never | Married | | | | | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | | | | | | |
| Total | 2.49 | 3.02 | 1.16 | | | | | | |
| Live Alone* | 1.27 | 1.10 | 1.57 | | | | | | |
| | ontains far lower p se who are never r | | | | | | | | |



IV. DRUG USE IN ORANGE COUNTY

Obtaining data on drug use among Orange County residents was one of the major goals of this survey, as reliable information relating to the prevalence of drug use and user characteristics is not currently available. Consequently, the survey included questioning on the use of six illicit drug types and the improper use of four categories of prescription drugs, as follows:

| Illicit Drugs | | Prescription Drugs |
|--|------------------|--|
| Marijuana Cocaine Heroin Hallucinogens Methamphetamines Club Drugs | 2 2 2 2 | Pain Relievers Tranquilizers Stimulants Sedatives |

Substance use prevalence data were obtained by asking all survey participants whether they had ever used drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, or heroin and then asking them to indicate whether they had ever used drugs such as hallucinogens, methamphetamines, and/or club drugs. Experience with prescription drugs was also explored with a general question to determine whether they had ever misused various types of prescription drugs that either were not prescribed for them personally or by taking them more often than prescribed just to obtain a particular feeling. In this way, the broad-based nature of the initial usage questioning served as a "warm-up" and was less threatening than if direct questions about specific substances were asked.

Those respondents that indicated prior experience with a substance in one of these larger classes were asked a series of questions to determine how recently their use had occurred.

In this way, usage prevalence data were collected for each of the ten substances listed above for four different timeframes:

- Ever Used
- Used, but Not In Past Year
- Used in Past Year, but Not In Past 30 Days
- Used in Past 30 Days

In addition, users of each substance were asked several other questions to assess the current substance use environment, including age of first use, whether their personal use is increasing/decreasing/remaining the same, and use among friends. These additional questions are important diagnostic tools because:



- Shifts in age of first use are indicators of increasing and decreasing popularity of individual substances among younger individuals and is often a precursor of future substance abuse problems.
- Shifts in personal usage patterns are also important because stated increases in use are often indicative of potential physical and/or mental health problems requiring treatment.
- Shifts in the numbers of friends that are using are also important, as they are indicative of both increasing or decreasing social acceptance of the use of individual substances as well as indicative of shifts in overall attitudes toward drug use in general.

The following sections of this chapter present the study findings relating to drug use prevalence in Orange County as well as the topics just summarized.

A. Drug Use Prevalence

Overall, approximately 767,000 Orange County adults (37%) have used one or more illicit drugs or misused prescription drugs on at least one or more occasions during their lifetimes and an estimated 192,000 have used a substance during the past year (9%). Among past-year users, an estimated 103,000 have used a substance during the past 30 days (5%), while the remaining 89,000 have used drugs during the past year but not during the past month (4%). In comparison with U. S. and California rates, the prevalence of any illicit drug use in Orange County is consistently lower across all timeframes of usage (see Appendix).

By far, the majority of recent use involves illicit drugs, particularly marijuana, used by 71,000 during the past 30 days (3% of the county's adults). Recent use of marijuana is followed by prescription pain relievers, used by an estimated 31,000 during the past 30 days (2% of the county's adults), with methamphetamines ranking third (16,000 used in past 30 days, 1% of the county's adults).

As can also be seen in the table following, marijuana (3%), pain relievers (2%), cocaine (1%), club drugs (1%), and tranquilizers (1%), are the top five substances used during the past year but not in the past month.

In addition, the substance usage patterns shown in the table indicate that the overall use of hallucinogens, cocaine and methamphetamines has probably trended down relative to prior years. This is apparent when the relationships between lifetime and past-year use are examined, as follows:

- For every Orange County adult that has used hallucinogens in the past year, there are about 33.7 that have ever used these substances but did not do so in the past year
- For every Orange County adult that has used cocaine in the past year, there are about 8.7 that have ever used cocaine but did not do so during the past year.
- For every Orange County adult that has used methamphetamines in the past year, there are about 6.7 who have ever used methamphetamines, but not in the past year.



| | SUMM | ARY OF DRU | G USE P | REVALENCE | IN ORAN | IGE COUNTY | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|---|--|
| | Ever Used | | Used in Ever Used Past Year | | Yea | Used in Past Year/Not in Past 30 Days | | Used in Past 30 Days | |
| | <u>%</u> | # | <u>%</u> | # | <u></u> % | # | % | # | |
| USED ONE OR MORE | <u>37%</u> | <u>767,000</u> | <u>9%</u> | <u>192,000</u> | <u>4%</u> | <u>89,000</u> | <u>5%</u> | <u>103,000</u> | |
| Used Illicit Drugs | <u>35%</u> | 722,000 | <u>9%</u> | <u>152,000</u> | <u>4%</u> | <u>73,000</u> | <u>4%</u> | <u>79,000</u> | |
| Marijuana, Cocaine, or Heroin Marijuana Cocaine Heroin | 34% 34 15 2 | 713,000 697,000 300,000 43,000 | 7 <u>%</u> 6 1 * | 139,000 131,500 29,000 4,100 | 3% 3 1 | 65,000 60,500 21,500 2,300 | 4% 3 * | 74,000 71,000 7,500 1,800 | |
| Hallucinogens, Methamphetamines, or Club Drugs Hallucinogens Methamphetamine Club Drugs | 13% 11 8 5 | 271,000 218,000 163,000 98,000 | 2% * 1 1 | 38,000 7,800 21,600 21,300 | 1% * * 1 | 18,500 4,900 5,600 14,600 | 1% * 1 * | 19,500 2,900 16,000 6,700 | |
| Prescription Drugs Pain Relievers Tranquilizers Stimulants Sedatives | 7% 7 4 2 2 | 148,000 135,000 78,000 45,000 45,000 | 3% 3 1 * 1 | 71,000 65,600 21,600 7,200 9,700 | 2% 2 1 * | 36,000 34,600 12,200 1,200 7,700 | 2% 2 1 * | 35,000 31,000 9,400 6,000 2,000 | |
| NONE USED * Less than 0.5% | <u>63%</u> | <u>1,311,000</u> | <u>91%</u> | <u>1,886,000</u> | <u>96%</u> | <u>1,989,000</u> | <u>96%</u> | <u>1,975,000</u> | |

Profiles of the county's current, occasional and former users follow.

B. Orange County Drug User Profiles

To aid in developing strategies and tactics designed to reach and influence target populations for drug use reduction efforts, knowing the characteristics of the users of individual substances is critical. This section presents detailed information relating to the demographic characteristics of users, separately for each substance included in the survey. Each substance user profile is based on the most recent timeframe of use (past 30 days, past year, lifetime or ever used) for which the prevalence rate (number of respondents in sample segment) is sufficient to yield reliable demographic profiling information.



Marijuana User Profile (Past 30-Day Users): Predominantly male (68%), aged 18-34 (62%), White (70%)

About 131,500 Orange County residents used marijuana in the past year, 6% of the county's adult population. Some 71,000 of the county's 131,500 past-year marijuana users used marijuana in the past 30 days (54% of past-year users, or 3% of the county's adult population). Overall, marijuana use in Orange County is less prevalent than within the adult population nationwide and, in terms of past month use, appreciably less prevalent than among California adults statewide (see Appendix).

Marijuana trial and continued use is consistently higher among men than women.

- Among past-year users, males outnumber females by nearly three to one (males 74%; females 26%)
- Males also account for two-thirds of past 30-day marijuana users (68% males versus 32% females)

Almost two-thirds of past 30-day marijuana users are aged 18-34 (62%), and another 36% are aged 35-54. Only 2% of past 30-day marijuana users are aged 55 and older. This older population segment constitutes over one of ten that have tried marijuana, but eight out of ten of them have not used it in the past year.

Seventy percent of past 30-day marijuana users are White. With Asian American/Pacific Islanders comprising 5% of past 30-day marijuana users and Hispanics contributing another 16%, past 30-day marijuana use is below average among these two ethnic groups, based on their relative population sizes.

| | PROFILE OF MARIJUANA USERS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 68% | 82% | 74% | 57% | 49% | | | | |
| Female | 32 | 18 | 26 | 43 | 51 | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 33% | 46% | 39% | 14% | 13% | | | | |
| 25-34 | 29 | 35 | 32 | 24 | 22 | | | | |
| 35-44 | 16 | 11 | 14 | 28 | 23 | | | | |
| 45-54 | 20 | 6 | 13 | 22 | 18 | | | | |
| 55-64 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 11 | | | | |
| 65+ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 13 | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | 5% | 9% | 7% | 5% | 14% | | | | |
| Black | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Hispanic | 16 | 22 | 19 | 15 | 27 | | | | |
| White | 70 | 62 | 67 | 76 | 56 | | | | |
| Bi-Racial | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| Other | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Total | <u>71,000</u> | <u>60,500</u> | <u>131,500</u> | <u>697,700</u> | 2,078,000 | | | | |



Cocaine User Profile (Past Year Users): Mostly male (63%), under age 35 (81%), White (72%)

Approximately 29,000 Orange County residents used cocaine in the past year, 1% of the county's adult population. About 7,500 of the county's past-year cocaine users used cocaine in the past 30 days (26% of past-year users, or 0.4% of the county's adult population). These usage rates are comparable to those of the national and statewide adult populations (see Appendix).

Cocaine trial and continued use is consistently higher among men than women.

- More than six of ten Orange County adults that have ever tried cocaine are males (63% males versus 37% females)
- Males outnumber females among past-year users (males 63%; females 37%)
- Males also account for eight of ten past 30-day cocaine users (82% males versus 18% females)

Virtually all past-year cocaine users are between the ages of 18 and 44 with half of them in the 18-24 year range. While 60% of the county's adults that have ever tried cocaine are aged 35-54, most of them are no longer using cocaine -- they comprise only 19% of those who have used cocaine in the past year.

Seventy-three percent of past 30-day cocaine users are White, with Hispanics comprising the rest of the county's past 30-day cocaine users.

| | PROFILE OF COCAINE USERS | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users(#) | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 82% | 56% | 63% | 63% | 49% | | | |
| Female | 18 | 44 | 37 | 37 | 51 | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 18% | 61% | 50% | 15% | 13% | | | |
| 25-34 | 46 | 26 | 31 | 21 | 22 | | | |
| 35-44 | 36 | 10 | 17 | 40 | 23 | | | |
| 45-54 | - | 3 | 2 | 20 | 18 | | | |
| 55-64 | - | - | - | 3 | 11 | | | |
| 65+ | - | - | - | 1 | 13 | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | -% | -% | -% | 3% | 14% | | | |
| Black | - | - | - | * | 1 | | | |
| Hispanic | 27 | 28 | 26 | 18 | 27 | | | |
| White | 73 | 69 | 72 | 76 | 56 | | | |
| Bi-Racial | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Other | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| (*) Less than 0.5 percent (#) Caution: Very Small E | Base | | | | | | | |
| Total | 7,500 | 21,500 | 29,000 | 300,000 | <u>2,078,000</u> | | | |



Heroin User Profile (Lifetime Users): Mostly male (62%), aged 35-54 (73%), White (77%)

About 43,000 Orange County adults have tried heroin but only about 4,100 of them have used heroin in the past year (9.5% of those who have ever tried, or 0.2% of the county's adult population). As indicated in the Appendix, these rates are comparable to U.S. heroin use rates. Consequently, sample sizes from the survey data are insufficient to develop reliable demographic profiles of past 30-day or past-year users. Thus, the following description is based on the characteristics of those who have ever used heroin (lifetime users) and is presented as a rough approximation of the characteristics of the county's heroin users.

As is the case for marijuana and cocaine, heroin trial is considerably higher among men than women.

Six of ten Orange County adults that have ever tried heroin are males (62% males versus 38% females)

Residents aged 35-54 account for 73% of those who have ever used heroin, while 8% of lifetime users is accounted for by those aged 18-24 and another 17% are aged 25-34. While the sample sizes are too small for a high degree of confidence, the differences in the pattern of heroin usage by age may suggest that the population age segment at greatest risk for continued heroin use is those aged 18-34 years. Compared with the 35-44 year olds, the ratio of past year use to ever used is higher among the 18-34 year olds than among those aged 35-44.

Seventy-seven percent of those who have ever used heroin are White. In contrast, Asian American/Pacific Islanders (8%) and Hispanics (11%) are underrepresented among lifetime users of heroin relative to their population segments..

| PROFILE OF HEROIN USERS | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users(#) | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | |
| Gender | | | | | • | | | |
| Male | NA | NA | 33% | 62% | 49% | | | |
| Female | NA | NA | 67 | 38 | 51 | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | NA | NA | 14% | 8% | 13% | | | |
| 25-34 | NA | NA | 29 | 17 | 22 | | | |
| 35-44 | NA | NA | 57 | 38 | 23 | | | |
| 45-54 | NA | NA | - | 35 | 18 | | | |
| 55-64 | NA | NA | - | 2 | 11 | | | |
| 65+ | NA | NA | - | - | 13 | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | NA | NA | 17% | 8% | 14% | | | |
| Black | NA | NA | - | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Hispanic | NA | NA | - | 11 | 27 | | | |
| White | NA | NA | 83 | 77 | 56 | | | |
| Bi-Racial | NA | NA | - | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Other | NA | NA | - | 1 | 1 | | | |
| (#) Caution: Very Small I | | | | | | | | |
| Total | <u>1,800</u> | <u>2,300</u> | <u>4,100</u> | <u>43,000</u> | <u>2,078,000</u> | | | |



Hallucinogen User Profile (Lifetime Users): Mostly male (62%), under age 45 (74%), White (83%)

Approximately 218,000 Orange County residents have ever used hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD or PCP, but only 7,800 of them have used hallucinogens in the past year (3.6% of those who have ever used, or 0.4% of the county's adult population). Compared to national estimates, these usage rates are consistently lower, but comparable (see Appendix).

Trial and past year use of hallucinogens is higher among men than women.

■ 58% of past-year hallucinogen users are males versus 42% females

Virtually all past-year usage of hallucinogens is accounted for by 18-24 year-olds (82%).

Two-thirds of past-year hallucinogen users are White (67%).

| | PROFILE OF HALLUCINOGEN USERS | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days(#) | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | NA | 38% | 58% | 62% | 49% | | | | |
| Female | NA | 63 | 42 | 34 | 51 | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | NA | 88% | 82% | 13% | 13% | | | | |
| 25-34 | NA | 12 | 18 | 28 | 22 | | | | |
| 35-44 | NA | - | - | 33 | 23 | | | | |
| 45-54 | NA | - | - | 23 | 18 | | | | |
| 55-64 | NA | - | - | 3 | 11 | | | | |
| 65+ | NA | - | - | - | 13 | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | NA | -% | -% | 3% | 14% | | | | |
| Black | NA | - | - | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Hispanic | NA | - | 17 | 9 | 27 | | | | |
| White | NA | 75 | 67 | 83 | 56 | | | | |
| Bi-Racial | NA | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1 | | | | |
| Other | NA | 12 | 8 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| (#) Caution: Very Small E | Base | | | | | | | | |
| Total | <u>2,900</u> | <u>4,900</u> | <u>7,800</u> | <u>218,000</u> | <u>2,078,000</u> | | | | |



Methamphetamine User Profile (Past Year Users): Predominantly Male (75%), under age 35 (66%), White (78%)

21,600 Orange County residents used methamphetamine in the past year, 1% of the county's adult population. Approximately, 16,000 of the county's 21,600 past-year users of methamphetamine used in the past 30 days (74% of past-year users, or 0.8% of the county's adult population). Notably, Orange County methamphetamine use is appreciably higher than U.S. rates across all timeframes of usage (see Appendix). The public health impact of this comparatively high rate of use in Orange County is reflected in the fact that methamphetamine was identified as the primary drug problem by 34% of the nearly 10,000 clients treated for substance abuse/dependence at county-operated clinics in 2001-02.

Methamphetamine trial and continued use is consistently higher among men than women.

- Six of ten Orange County adults that have ever tried methamphetamines are males (60% males versus 40% females)
- Males outnumber females among past-year users (males 75%; females 25%)
- Males also account for 88% of past 30-day methamphetamine users

About three-fourths of past 30-day methamphetamine users are aged 25-44 (78%), and another 13% are aged 45-54. Only 9% of past 30-day users are aged 18-24, suggesting that methamphetamines are tried, used occasionally, but not used with the same consistency among this youngest age group as other substances. Three-fourths of past 30-day methamphetamine users are White (75%).

| PROFILE OF METHAMPHETAMINE USERS | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users(#) | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days(#) | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | |
| Male | 88% | 38% | 75% | 60% | 49% | | |
| Female | 12 | 62 | 25 | 40 | 51 | | |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 9% | 25% | 16% | 14% | 13% | | |
| 25-34 | 43 | 75 | 50 | 31 | 22 | | |
| 35-44 | 35 | - | 25 | 33 | 23 | | |
| 45-54 | 13 | - | 9 | 19 | 18 | | |
| 55-64 | - | - | = | 3 | 11 | | |
| 65+ | - | - | - | - | 13 | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | -% | -% | -% | 2% | 14% | | |
| Black | - | - | _ | * | 1 | | |
| Hispanic | 25 | 22 | 22 | 10 | 27 | | |
| White | 75 | 78 | 78 | 83 | 56 | | |
| Bi-Racial | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | | |
| Other | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | | |
| (*) Less than 0.5 percent (#) Caution: Very Small E | Base | | | | | | |
| Total | 16,000 | 5,600 | 21,600 | 163,000 | 2,078,000 | | |



<u>Club Drugs User Profile (Past Year Users):</u> <u>Mostly male (61%), aged 18-34 (87%),</u> White (68%)

About 21,000 Orange County residents used club drugs such as MDMA (Ecstasy), Rohypnol, or Ketamine (Special K) in the past year, 1.0% of the county's adult population. Some 6,700 of the county's 21,000 past-year club drugs users used these drugs in the past 30 days (32% of past-year users, or 0.3% of the county's adult population). Although comparison with national prevalence data is problematic (as noted in the Appendix), it appears that lifetime use of club drugs such as Ecstasy is appreciably higher in Orange County than among adults nationwide.

Club drugs trial and continued use is consistently higher among men than women.

- 63% of Orange County adults that have ever tried club drugs are males versus 37% for females
- Males outnumber females among past-year users (males 61%; females 39%)
- Males also account for 70% of past 30-day club drugs users

Club drugs usage is most prevalent among residents aged 18-34 years of age with half of all past-year users aged 18-24.

Two-thirds of past-year users of club drugs are White (68%), 10% are of Asian American/Pacific Islander backgrounds, with Hispanics accounting for another 19%.

| | PROFILE OF CLUB DRUG USERS | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users(#) | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 70% | 55% | 61% | 63% | 49% | | | | | |
| Female | 30 | 45 | 39 | 37 | 51 | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 50% | 55% | 53% | 38% | 13% | | | | | |
| 25-34 | 50 | 27 | 34 | 41 | 22 | | | | | |
| 35-44 | - | 18 | 13 | 12 | 23 | | | | | |
| 45-54 | - | - | - | 9 | 18 | | | | | |
| 55-64 | - | - | - | - | 11 | | | | | |
| 65+ | - | - | - | - | 13 | | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | -% | 13% | 10% | 8% | 14% | | | | | |
| Black | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 50 | 9 | 19 | 19 | 27 | | | | | |
| White | 50 | 74 | 68 | 68 | 56 | | | | | |
| Bi-Racial | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| Other | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| (#) Caution: Very Small E | Base | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 6,700 | 14,600 | 21,300 | 98,000 | 2,078,000 | | | | | |



Pain Reliever User Profile (Past 30-Day Users): Male (55%); Female (45%), aged 25-34 (45%), White (70%)

Some 65,500 Orange County residents used prescription pain relievers for non-medical purposes in the past year, 3.1% of the county's adult population. About 31,000 of the county's 65,500 past-year users also misused pain relievers in the past 30 days (47% of past-year users, or 1.5% of the county's adult population). These rates are comparable to the national prevalence data shown in the Appendix.

Unlike the trial and usage patterns for illicit drugs, misuse of pain relievers is about equal among men and women.

- 54% of Orange County adults that have ever misused pain relievers are males and 46% are females
- 56% of past year misusers of pain relievers are males and 44% are females
- 55% of those who misused pain relievers in the past 30-days are males and 45% are females

The misuse of pain relievers also differs from illicit drug use in terms of the ages of users. While illicit drug use is almost exclusive to those aged 18-44, pain reliever misuse is reported by residents in all age segments. However, past 30-day users are disproportionately more likely to be aged 25-34 than those who are either younger or older.

Consistent with the patterns of illicit drug use, Whites are disproportionately represented among those who misuse pain relievers -- 70% of past 30-day users are Whites.

| | PRO | FILE OF PAIN RELIE | VER USERS | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population |
| Gender | | | | | |
| Male | 55% | 57% | 56% | 54% | 49% |
| Female | 45 | 43 | 44 | 46 | 51 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 11% | 31% | 21% | 17% | 13% |
| 25-34 | 45 | 22 | 34 | 25 | 22 |
| 35-44 | 15 | 22 | 18 | 30 | 23 |
| 45-54 | 6 | 18 | 12 | 15 | 18 |
| 55-64 | 13 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 11 |
| 65+ | 10 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | 17% | 10% | 13% | 15% | 14% |
| Black | - | - | - | * | 1 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 18 | 15 | 14 | 27 |
| White | 70 | 69 | 70 | 68 | 56 |
| Bi-Racial | - | - | - | 2 | 1 |
| Other | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| (*) Less than 0.5 percent | | | | | |
| Total | <u>31,000</u> | <u>34,600</u> | <u>65,600</u> | <u>135,000</u> | <u>2,078,000</u> |



<u>Tranquilizer User Profile (Past Year Users):</u> Male (47%); Female (53%), aged 18-44 (85%), White (68%)

About 21,600 Orange County residents used prescription tranquilizers for non-medical purposes in the past year, 1.0% of the county's adult population. Approximately 9,400 of those who misused tranquilizers in the past year also misused tranquilizers in the past 30 days (44% of past-year users, or 0.5% of the county's adult population). These rates are comparable to the national prevalence data shown in the Appendix.

Tranquilizer trial and use does not differ by gender -- about as many women as men have ever misused tranquilizers and about as many men as women continue misusing these drugs.

- 53% of Orange County adults who have ever misused tranquilizers are males versus 47% for females
- Conversely, 47% of past-year misusers of tranquilizers are males and 53% are females

Over eight of ten past-year misusers of tranquilizers are aged 18-44, with the remaining 15% of past-year users divided between the 45-54 and 55-64 age categories.

Seven of ten past-year misusers of tranquilizers are White (68%) and 26% are of Hispanic descent. Only 3% of tranquilizer misusers are of Asian American/Pacific Islander backgrounds.

| | PROFILE OF TRANQUILIZER USERS | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users(#) | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days(#) | % of Those Used In Past Year(#) | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 50% | 44% | 47% | 53% | 49% | | | | | |
| Female | 50 | 56 | 53 | 47 | 51 | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | -% | 58% | 34% | 12% | 13% | | | | | |
| 25-34 | 54 | 5 | 24 | 21 | 22 | | | | | |
| 35-44 | 31 | 26 | 27 | 36 | 23 | | | | | |
| 45-54 | 15 | - | 6 | 18 | 18 | | | | | |
| 55-64 | - | 11 | 9 | 5 | 11 | | | | | |
| 65+ | - | - | - | 8 | 13 | | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | 7% | -% | 3% | 6% | 14% | | | | | |
| Black | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 29 | 24 | 26 | 13 | 27 | | | | | |
| White | 64 | 71 | 68 | 77 | 56 | | | | | |
| Bi-Racial | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| Other | - | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| (#) Caution: Very Small E | Base | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | <u>9,400</u> | <u>12,200</u> | <u>21,600</u> | <u>78,000</u> | 2,078,000 | | | | | |



Stimulant User Profile (Lifetime Users): Male (50%); Female (50%), aged 25-54 (85%), White (80%)

Compared with other substances, the prevalence of having ever used or having recently used prescription stimulants for non-medical purposes is quite low among Orange County's adults -- only 45,000 of the county's adults (2.2%) have ever used stimulants, only 7,200 have taken stimulants in the past year. However, 6,000 of the 7,200 past-year users report having misused stimulants in the past 30 days (83% of past year users, or 0.4% of the total adult population). These rates are comparable to the national prevalence data shown in the Appendix.

Stimulant trial and use does not differ by gender -- about as many men as women have ever misused stimulants and about as many men as women continue using stimulants after having tried them.

- 50% of Orange County adults who have ever tried stimulants are men and 50% are women
- 45% of past-year stimulants users are men and 55% are women

Past-year misuse of prescription stimulants is highest among residents aged 25-34 (55% of past-year users) and another 36% of past year misusers are aged 18-24. No past-year users were aged 45 or older.

Eight of ten of those who have ever misused stimulants (80%) are White, and Whites also dominate past-year users (70%).

| PROFILE OF STIMULANTS USERS | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users(#) | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days(#) | % of Those Used In Past Year(#) | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 56% | NA | 45% | 50% | 49% | | | | | |
| Female | 44 | NA | 55 | 50 | 51 | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 33% | NA | 36% | 6% | 13% | | | | | |
| 25-34 | 56 | NA | 55 | 27 | 22 | | | | | |
| 35-44 | 11 | NA | 9 | 32 | 23 | | | | | |
| 45-54 | - | NA | - | 26 | 18 | | | | | |
| 55-64 | - | NA | - | 9 | 11 | | | | | |
| 65+ | - | NA | - | - | 13 | | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | -% | NA | 10% | 9% | 14% | | | | | |
| Black | - | NA | - | - | 1 | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 25 | NA | 20 | 6 | 27 | | | | | |
| White | 75 | NA | 70 | 80 | 56 | | | | | |
| Bi-Racial | - | NA | - | 4 | 1 | | | | | |
| Other | - | NA | - | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| (#) Caution: Very Small E | Base | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | <u>6,000</u> | <u>1,200</u> | <u>7,200</u> | <u>45,000</u> | 2,078,000 | | | | | |



Sedative User Profile (Lifetime Users): Male (58%); Female (42%), aged 25-54 (78%), White (78%)

Compared with other substances, the prevalence of having ever used or having recently used prescription sedatives for non-medical purposes is quite low among Orange County's adults -- only 45,000 of the county's adults (2.2%) have ever misused sedatives, only 7,700 have taken sedatives in the past year. Similarly, only 2,000 of the 7,700 past-year sedative users report having misused sedatives in the past 30 days (27% of past year users, or 0.1% of the county's adult population). These rates are comparable to the national prevalence data shown in the Appendix.

Sedative trial is higher among men than women (58% men versus 42% women) but misuse in the past year is essentially undifferentiated by gender -- 47% of past-year users are men and 53% of past-year users are women.

Past-year sedative use is highest among residents aged 18-34 (65% of past-year users).

Eight of ten of those who have ever tried sedatives (78%) are Whites, and Whites also dominate past-year users (73%).

| | Р | ROFILE OF SEDATIV | /E USERS | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | % of Past 30 Day Users | % of Those Who Used In Past Year But Not In Past 30 Days(#) | % of Those Used In Past Year | % of Those Ever Used | % of Orange County Adult Population |
| Gender | | | | | |
| Male | NA | 42% | 47% | 58% | 49% |
| Female | NA | 58 | 53 | 42 | 51 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18-24 | NA | 46% | 36% | 14% | 13% |
| 25-34 | NA | 18 | 29 | 20 | 22 |
| 35-44 | NA | - | 7 | 35 | 23 |
| 45-54 | NA | 18 | 14 | 23 | 18 |
| 55-64 | NA | - | - | 6 | 11 |
| 65+ | NA | 18 | 14 | 2 | 13 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | NA | -% | -% | 5% | 14% |
| Black | NA | - | - | - | 1 |
| Hispanic | NA | 18 | 20 | 12 | 27 |
| White | NA | 73 | 73 | 78 | 56 |
| Bi-Racial | NA | = | - | 3 | 1 |
| Other | NA | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| (#) Caution: Very Small E | Base | | | | |
| Total | <u>2,000</u> | <u>7,700</u> | <u>9,700</u> | <u>45,000</u> | <u>2,078,000</u> |



Age of First Use

Consistent with initiation to alcohol, use of illicit substances began for a majority of the county's adults during their high school or college years. Based on the age of first use, alcohol, marijuana, and hallucinogens are the first-used substances. As was the case with alcohol, women begin using drugs about a year later than men, depending on the substance.

On average, usage of alcohol, marijuana, and hallucinogens began shortly before the 18th birthday, followed by heroin and cocaine. However, among the county's adults aged 18-24, the age of first use is considerably below that of the entire population at large. Among 18-24 year-olds, average age of first use for all substances is under the age of 18.

Notably, non-medical use of prescription drugs typically begins at a later age, with average age of initiation ranging from 19.5 for sedatives to 22.5 for tranquilizers.

| AVERAGE AGE OF FIRST USE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|------------------------------------|---------|---------------|-------|
| | | Ger | nder | | | A | ge | | | Et | hnic Ba | ckgroun | d |
| | Total | Male | Fe- male | 18- 24 | 25- 34 | 35- 44 | 45- 54 | 55- 64 | 65+ | Asian/ Pacific Islan- der | Black | His- panic | White |
| Alcohol | 17.9 | 17.1 | 18.8 | 16.0 | 16.9 | 17.5 | 18.5 | 19.0 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 17.0 | 18.4 | 17.4 |
| Marijuana | 17.8 | 17.4 | 18.2 | 15.8 | 16.8 | 15.8 | 18.3 | 25.9 | 29.4 | 20.0 | 17.1 | 16.7 | 17.9 |
| Cocaine | 19.9 | 20.1 | 19.7 | 17.0 | 18.2 | 19.3 | 22.2 | 32.4 | NA | NA | NA | 19.3 | 20.1 |
| Heroin | 18.5 | 19.2 | 17.3 | NA | NA | 19.6 | 18.1 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Hallucinogens | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.7 | 16.7 | 17.5 | 16.8 | 18.2 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 17.3 | 17.6 |
| Methamphetamine | 19.0 | 19.2 | 18.6 | 16.5 | 17.7 | 19.0 | 21.3 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 19.0 | 18.9 |
| Club Drugs | 20.7 | 21.1 | 20.2 | 17.6 | 21.6 | 27.1 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 18.6 | 21.3 |
| Stimulants | 19.6 | 18.2 | 20.9 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Pain Relievers | 21.1 | 20.3 | 21.9 | 15.7 | 19.3 | 20.5 | 24.2 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 16.4 | 21.4 |
| Tranquilizers | 22.5 | 20.9 | 24.2 | NA | 18.6 | 23.4 | 22.6 | NA | NA | 24.3 | NA | NA | 22.7 |
| Sedatives | 19.5 | 18.2 | 21.2 | NA | NA | 17.7 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| NA: Insufficient san | nple size | for ana | ılysis | | | | | | | | | | |

Average Number Days Used in Past Month

Past 30-day users of particular substances were asked to indicate how many days out of the last 30 they had used that substance.

With an average use rate of 12.5 days out of the past 30, Marijuana is clearly the most frequently used substance, followed by tranquilizers (10.9), and methamphetamines (9.9). (Sample sizes for past 30-day users of other substances are too small for analysis).



| | | Ger | nder | | | Ag | е | | | Et | hnic Ba | ckgroun | d |
|-----------------|-------|------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|------------------------------------|---------|---------------|-------|
| | Total | Male | Fe- male | 18- 24 | 25- 34 | 35- 44 | 45- 54 | 55- 64 | 65+ | Asian/ Pacific Islan- der | Black | His- panic | White |
| Alcohol | 7.1 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 7.9 | 11.3 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 4.8 | 8.0 |
| Marijuana | 12.5 | 13.5 | 10.2 | 11.5 | 13.2 | 16.8 | 9.8 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 16.2 | 11.9 |
| Cocaine | 5.2 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Heroin | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Hallucinogens | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Methamphetamine | 9.9 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Club Drugs | 2.0 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Stimulants | 6.3 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Pain Relievers | 8.6 | 10.5 | 6.3 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Tranquilizers | 10.9 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Sedatives | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |

Use Among Friends

As mentioned earlier, prevalence of substance use among peers is a qualitative indicator of trends in substance use. Consequently, users were asked to indicate how many of their friends use each particular substance. The following table summarizes the responses to these questions and, for reference purposes, also includes the responses for alcohol and tobacco. In most instances, drug use prevalence among friends parallels respondents' usage patterns.

Consistent with actual usage, use of heroin by friends is lower than for other substances – 97% of the county's adults say none of their friends use heroin. At the other end of the spectrum, only 10% of the county's adults say none of their friends drink alcoholic beverages.

Similarly, 36% say many of their friends drink alcoholic beverages, followed by 10% using tobacco. Also of note is the fact that no more than 4% of the county's adults say that they have many friends that use either illicit or prescription drugs – with 4%, marijuana leads all other substances.



| USE BY FRIENDS | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | None | | Few/ ry Few | S | ome | Many | | | |
| | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | | |
| Cigarettes Alcohol Marijuana Cocaine Heroin | 30% 10% 63% 88% 97% | 608,200 191,500 1,220,700 1,712,150 1,916,500 | 42% 26% 24% 9% 2% | 869,700 531,800 461,700 179,300 35,700 | 18% 28% 9% 2% *% | 371,400 575,700 182,750 48,700 7,350 | 10% 36% 4% 1% *% | 209,100 737,300 84,900 13,400 6,750 | | |
| Hallucinogens or Methamphetamines or Club Drugs | 87% | 1,711,300 | 10% | 184,000 | 2% | 46,800 | 1% | 19,700 | | |
| Stimulants, Pain Relievers, Tranquilizers, Sedatives | 72% | 772,400 | 18% | 197,200 | 8% | 84,650 | 2% | 19,400 | | |
| Misuse of Stimulants, Pain Relievers Tranquilizers Sedatives | 83% | 717,700 | 13% | 113,500 | 3% | 26,300 | 1% | 9,300 | | |

Changes in Use

Past-Year users were asked whether their current use of particular substances had increased, decreased or remained the same relative to a year ago. While the majority of past-year users of most substances report that their usage has either decreased or remained the same, an appreciable proportion of heroin (33%) and stimulant (27%) users report that their use of these substances increased over the past year, possibly reflecting the highly addictive properties of these drugs.

| PAST-YI | PAST-YEAR CHANGES IN SUBSTANCE USE | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | Use Increased | | | Use Decreased | | | Use Stayed the same | | | |
| | % | # | | % | # | | % | # | | |
| Marijuana Cocaine Heroin* | 11% 4 33 | 14,000 1,250 1,500 | | 35% 67 67 | 45,500 20,700 2,600 | | 55% 27 - | 72,500 8,200 - | | |
| Hallucinogens* Methamphetamines Club Drugs | 17 16 6 | 1,250 3,650 1,500 | | 33 50 68 | 2,500 10,850 14,250 | | 50 34 26 | 4,000 7,100 5,600 | | |
| Stimulants* Pain Relievers Tranquilizers Sedatives* | 27 8 11 17 | 2,250 4,450 2,400 1,850 | | 64 46 46 50 | 4,750 30,700 10,700 5,900 | | 9 46 43 33 | 750 30,850 9,800 3,900 | | |
| *: Caution: Very Small Base | | | | | | | | | | |



V. PRIOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT EXPERIENCE

Previous treatment or counseling for substance abuse was also explored.

Received Treatment/Counseling For Alcohol or Other Drugs

Approximately 130,000 of the county's adults (6%) reported having previously received treatment or counseling for problems associated with their use of alcohol or other drugs. For the majority, their treatment experience took place more than five years ago.

| PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED TREATMENT OR COUNSELING | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Orange County Adult Population | Number of Orange County Adults | | | | | | | |
| Received Treatment or Counseling | 6% | 129,000 | | | | | | | |
| Currently receiving treatment In past year 1 – 5 years ago More than 5 years ago | 1 1 1 4 | 10,000 11,000 31,000 77,000 | | | | | | | |
| Not received treatment or counseling | 94% | 1,949,000 | | | | | | | |

Not unexpectedly, elapsed time since treatment parallels age, with older residents having received treatment longer ago than those who are younger.

| PROFILE OF THOSE WHO RECEIVED TREATMENT | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Those Who Received Treatment | % of Orange County Adult Population | | | | | |
| Male Aged 35 – 44 White | 67% 33 78 | 49% 23 56 | | | | | |



Counseling and treatment has occurred most frequently for alcohol use (only), followed by both alcohol & drug use and drug use (only).

| MOST RECENT TREATMENT OR COUNSELING | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Number of Orange County Adults | | | | | | | | |
| Received Treatment or Counseling | 6% | 129,000 | | | | | | | |
| Most recent treatment for: | | | | | | | | | |
| Alcohol use (only) | 3 | 66,000 | | | | | | | |
| Both alcohol & drug use | 2 | 32,000 | | | | | | | |
| Drug use (only) | 2 | 31,000 | | | | | | | |
| Not received treatment or counseling | 94% | 1,949,000 | | | | | | | |

Treatment And Age Of Initial Use Of Alcohol

Having received treatment for substance abuse is clearly related to age of initial use of alcohol. Half of those who received treatment first used alcohol before their fifteenth birthday (50%) and 70% first used alcohol before turning eighteen.

| AGE OF FIRST USE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED TREATMENT | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Received Treatment For: | | | | | | | |
| | Total Received Treatment | Alcohol Only | Drugs & Alcohol | Drugs Only | | | | |
| | 129,000 | 66,000 | 32,000 | 31,000 | | | | |
| Age of First Drink | | | | | | | | |
| Under 15 15 – 17 18 – 20 21+ | 50% 35 11 2 | 42% 40 15 2 | 73% 23 — — | 50% 37 9 — | | | | |
| 12 – 17 18 – 25 | 70 13 | 70 17 | 63 — | 83 11 | | | | |

These data, as well as other analyses not shown, clearly support the hypothesis that early initiation of alcohol use is primary risk factor for experiencing substance-abuse problems later in life. One out of every five (20%) of those who reported having their first drink prior to age 15 also reported having received treatment for an alcohol or drug problem. Moreover, compared to those who had their first drink at or beyond the legal age of 21, respondents



who began drinking before age 15 were 40+ times more likely to have received alcohol/drug counseling or treatment.

Profile Of Those Who Have Received Treatment

The profile of those who have received treatment mirrors usage patterns and also reflects duration of use. Males, those aged 35-44, and Whites are disproportionately more likely to report having received treatment or counseling for alcohol or other drugs.

| | Total Received Treatment | Alcohol Only | Both Drugs & Alcohol | Drugs Only | % of Orange County Adult Population |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Gender | | | | | |
| Male | 67% | 82% | 46% | 67% | 49% |
| Female | 33 | 18 | 54 | 33 | 51 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 18 – 24 | 10% | 5% | 15% | 13% | 13 |
| 25 – 34 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 28 | 22 |
| 35 – 44 | 33 | 35 | 47 | 17 | 23 |
| 45 – 54 | 20 | 13 | 17 | 40 | 18 |
| 55 – 64 | 11 | 18 | _ | _ | 11 |
| 65+ | 5 | 10 | _ | 2 | 13 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islanders | 2% | 1% | —% | 2% | 14% |
| Black | 1 | _ | 4 | _ | 1 |
| Hispanic | 15 | 24 | 4 | 9 | 27 |
| White | 78 | 71 | 92 | 80 | 56 |
| Bi-Racial | 3 | 3 | _ | 7 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 1 | _ | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 129,000 | 66,000 | 32,000 | 31,000 | 2,078,000 |



Treatment Setting

Among those who have sought assistance, self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are the most frequently cited treatment settings (31%), followed by residential drug/alcohol rehabilitation facilities (18%), inpatient hospital stays (16%), and outpatient drug/alcohol treatment rehabilitation facilities (11%). Other treatment providers such as private psychologists/therapists, outpatient mental health centers and religious leaders are mentioned by considerably fewer respondents.

| TREATMENT SETTING | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Those Who Received Treatment/Counseling For Alcohol or Drug Use | Above- Average Among | | | | | |
| Self-help group (AA, NA, etc.) | 31% | Males, Aged 35-44, White | | | | | |
| Residential drug/alcohol rehab facility | 18 | Males, Aged 45-54, White | | | | | |
| Inpatient hospital stay | 16 | Aged 35-44, White | | | | | |
| Outpatient drug/alcohol rehab facility | 11 | | | | | | |
| Private psychologist/therapist/counselor | 7 | | | | | | |
| Mental health center – outpatient | 5 | | | | | | |
| Private physician/doctor's office | 4 | | | | | | |
| Pastor/priest/rabbi | 1 | | | | | | |
| Other | 6 | | | | | | |
| Don't know/refused | 1 | | | | | | |



VI. INDICATORS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISK

The survey also obtained information on several factors that serve as indirect measures of the prevalence of alcohol and other drug problems and indicators of health risks associated with alcohol/drug use. These measures include asking respondents whether they have experienced close friends or family members having difficulties with alcohol or drugs, a standardized set of screening questions for alcohol/drug problems, and the degree to which various alcohol/drug-use patterns are considered to put people at risk of harming themselves physically or in other ways.

CAGE Screening Test

The CAGE screening questions are a simple but effective screening test for alcohol and drug abuse in the general population. The four questions from which its name is derived are:

- 1. Have you ever felt the need to **C**ut down on your drinking/drug use?
- 2. Do you feel **A**nnoyed by people complaining about your drinking/drug use?
- 3. Do you ever feel **G**uilty about your drinking/drug use?
- 4. Do you ever drink an **E**ye-opener in the morning to relieve the shakes? or Do you ever use drugs first thing in the morning to "take the edge off?"

Validation studies of the CAGE test suggest that two or more "yes" answers to the four screening questions indicate the probable existence of alcohol or drug-related problems. Based on the answers to the CAGE questions, it appears that <u>9% of the county's adults are at risk</u> for having problems with drinking or drug use. As might be expected from the consistent gender pattern of substance use reported in earlier sections of this report, females are less likely than males to have answered any of the four CAGE questions affirmatively.

| RESPONSES TO CAGE QUESTIONS | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | % of Orange County Adult Population | Above-Average Among: | | | | | | |
| Those Saying They Have Felt | | | | | | | | |
| Bad or guilty about drinking or drug use | 11% | Males, Aged 18 – 44 | | | | | | |
| Should cut down on drinking or drug use | 10 | Males | | | | | | |
| Annoyed when somebody criticized drinking or drug use | 6 | Males, Aged 18 – 24 | | | | | | |
| Taken a drink or a drug in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover | 3 | Males, Aged 18 – 24 | | | | | | |
| "Yes" to none of the statements above | 81 | Females, Aged 55+ | | | | | | |
| "Yes" to one statement above | 10 | Males, Aged 18 – 24 | | | | | | |
| "Yes" to two statements above | 5 | Aged 25 – 44 | | | | | | |
| "Yes" to three statements above | 3 | Males, Aged 18 – 24 | | | | | | |
| "Yes" to all four statements | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |



Prevalence of Significant Others With Problems

Over half of the county's adults have experienced a family member or friend having problems with alcohol (56%) and about four of ten have experienced a similar situation relating to drug use (38%). Differences in these experiences were apparent across ethnic backgrounds:

- Experiencing someone close having a problem with alcohol is higher among Whites (65%) but lower among Asian/Pacific Islanders (21%)
- Experiencing someone close having a problem with drugs is higher among those below age 65 and among Asian/Pacific Islanders

| EXPERIENCED CLOSE FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER HAVING PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL OR DRUGS | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Alcohol Drugs | | | | | | | |
| Yes, have experienced | 56% | 38% | | | | | |
| One person | 22 | 16 | | | | | |
| A few people | 24 | 16 | | | | | |
| Several people | 10 | 6 | | | | | |
| No, never experienced | 44% | 62% | | | | | |

Perceived Risk Of Harm

Twelve statements describing various substance-use patterns were read to study participants to assess the degree to which the county's adult population views each usage pattern as placing someone at risk of harming themselves physically and in other ways. Degree of risk was indicated as either "No risk", "Slight risk", "Moderate risk", or "Great risk".

The table following reports the percent of respondents ascribing "great risk" to each of the 12 substance use patterns. Overall, Orange County residents perceive a high level of risk in these substance-use behaviors: more than 60% of respondents associate "great risk" of harm with 9 of the 12 behaviors. With reference to specific substances, the highest level of perceived risk is associated with frequent (nearly every day) binge drinking, followed by weekly use of ecstasy, cocaine, and methamphetamine, respectively. In addition:

- Ascribing "great risk" to these 12 behaviors is consistently higher among women than men and also increases with age
 - Women are significantly more likely than men to ascribe "great risk" to each of the 12 behaviors
 - An average of 74% of women say each of the 12 behaviors puts the person at great risk, compared with an average of 63% among men
- The likelihood of stating that the 12 behaviors constitute "great risk" is lowest among respondents who have used both alcohol and drugs in the past 30 days especially Marijuana users and those who report binge drinking once or twice a week.



| PERCENT PERCEIVING "GREAT RISK" OF HARM | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|------|--------|----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | Ge | ender | Past 30-Day Users | | | | |
| Substance Use Behaviors | Total | Male | Female | Alcohol Only | Alcohol and Drugs | | | |
| Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic | | | | | | | | |
| beverage nearly everyday | 89% | 85% | 92% | 89% | 85% | | | |
| Use Ecstasy once or twice a week | 86 | 81 | 90 | 86 | 80 | | | |
| Use cocaine once or twice a week | 84 | 80 | 89 | 83 | 66 | | | |
| Use methamphetamines once or twice a | | | | | | | | |
| week | 84 | 80 | 87 | 83 | 81 | | | |
| Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes* | 78 | 72 | 82 | 80 | 75 | | | |
| Use Ecstasy once a month | 72 | 65 | 78 | 71 | 47 | | | |
| Use methamphetamines once a month | 69 | 64 | 73 | 67 | 66 | | | |
| Use cocaine once a month | 66 | 60 | 72 | 62 | 44 | | | |
| Spend several hours a day around | | | | | | | | |
| someone who smokes regularly | 61 | 54 | 67 | 58 | 35 | | | |
| Smoke Marijuana once or twice a week | 52 | 43 | 60 | 44 | 9 | | | |
| Have five or more drinks of an alcoholic | | | | | | | | |
| beverage once or twice a week | 46 | 38 | 53 | 42 | 11 | | | |
| Smoke marijuana once or twice a month | 38 | 32 | 43 | 29 | 3 | | | |
| Average Number of Behaviors Rated as | | | | | | | | |
| "Great Risk" | 8.3 | 7.5 | 8.9 | 7.9 | 6.0 | | | |
| Average Percent Rating All Behaviors as "Great Risk" | 69% | 63% | 74% | 66% | 50% | | | |

^{*} Degree of risk may be understated as the rate-specification "per day" was inadvertently omitted from this item in the final survey questionnaire.



VII. DRINKING AND DRIVING

Several items in the survey were devoted to assessing a major threat to public health and safety, alcohol-impaired driving

A. <u>Drinking and Driving Prevalence</u>

Approximately 1,274,000 Orange County adults drank during the past year and almost one in four of them drove a motor vehicle on at least one occasion within two hours after having consumed an alcoholic beverage (24%). Based on the total adult population, these findings indicate an estimated 309,500 Orange County residents drank and drove in the past year, an adult drinking-and-driving prevalence rate of 15%.

Combined with survey data on the frequency of drinking and driving, this prevalence rate translates into a rather staggering statistic: In the past year, Orange County adult residents drove a motor vehicle within two hours of having a drink on approximately 6.8 million occasions. This means that throughout the county there were approximately 18,600 incidents of drinking and driving each day.

Among past-year drinkers, substantially more men (32%) reported having driven within two hours of having an alcoholic beverage than women (15%). Males also report driving after having an alcoholic beverage considerably more often than females over the past year and during the past month.

| DRINKING AND DRIVING PREVALENCE | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Driven Within Two Hours After Those Who Drank Alcoholic Drinking An Alcoholic Beverage Beverages In The Past Year | | | | | | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | | | | |
| Yes | 25% | 32% | 15% | | | | |
| Average # of days in | | | | | | | |
| Past 12 months | 35.3 | 43.3 | 13.2 | | | | |
| Past 30 days | 1.9 | 2.1 | 1.1 | | | | |
| No | 75% | 68% | 85% | | | | |

Additional gender-based analyses support the following observations regarding drinking and driving in Orange County:

- Orange County males account for a far greater proportion of drinking and driving incidents than women. Approximately 84% of all drinking and driving occurrences are accounted for by males.
- One of every 4-5 adult males in the county drinks and drives at least once a year, far more than the annual prevalence among women one of every 13.



Demographic Profile of Those Who Drank & Drove In Past Year

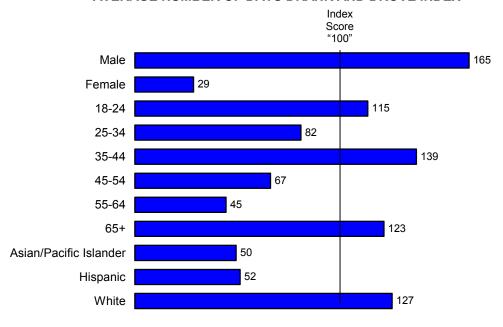
Drinking and driving takes place among adults within all age groups, but is more prevalent among men and Whites.

| PROFILE OF THOSE WHO DRANK AND DROVE IN PAST YEAR | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| % of Those Who % of Orange Drank and Drove County Adult In Past Year Population | | | | | | | |
| Gender | | - | | | | | |
| Male | 73% | 49% | | | | | |
| Female | 27 | 51 | | | | | |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 14% | 13% | | | | | |
| 25-34 | 24 | 22 | | | | | |
| 35-44 | 24 | 23 | | | | | |
| 45-54 | 20 | 18 | | | | | |
| 55-64 | 7 | 11 | | | | | |
| 65+ | 11 | 13 | | | | | |
| Ethnicity | | | | | | | |
| Asian/Pac Islander | 8% | 14% | | | | | |
| Hispanic | 12 | 27 | | | | | |
| White | 76 | 56 | | | | | |

Drinking and Driving Prevalence Index

An index based on the number of past year drinking and driving occasions relative to the sizes of several key population segments is shown below. Men, Whites, those aged 35-44 and those aged 65 years and older account for considerably more self-reported drinking and driving occasions than their representation in the population.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS DRANK AND DROVE INDEX





Number Of Drinks Can Consume Before Should Not Drive

In general, the number of drinks Orange County residents indicate they can have in 2 hours before they should not drive is within the State of California's Department of Motor Vehicles guidelines. On average, residents say they can have 1.5 drinks before they should not drive.

However, several differences between key population segments were revealed that are consistent with alcoholic beverage consumption patterns.

These findings include:

- More women than men saying that the number of drinks they can have before they should not drive is "none"
- More Hispanics than any other ethnic group saying "none" a belief expressed by 45% of Hispanics overall and 60% of Hispanics who were interviewed in Spanish
- Those aged 18–34 being more likely to say they can have three or more drinks before they should not drive
- Whites were more likely than Asians and Hispanics to say they can have two or three drinks and still drive a belief that is consistent with the finding that Whites account for disproportionately more days driving after drinking than Asians and Hispanics.

| | NUMBER OF DRINKS CAN CONSUME BEFORE SHOULD NOT DRIVE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Gender Age | | | | | Ethnicity | | | | | |
| | | Total | Male | Fe- male | 18- 24 | 25- 34 | 35- 44 | 45- 54 | 55- 64 | 65+ | Asian/ Pacific Islan- der | His- panic | White |
| None One Two Three Four more | or | 26% 30 26 10 | 23% 28 25 13 | 31% 33 27 6 | 31% 29 21 17 | 25% 27 25 13 | 28% 32 24 10 | 22% 35 30 7 | 32% 27 29 7 | 27% 30 29 9 | 34% 32 18 7 | 45% 25 16 5 | 19% 31 31 12 7 |
| Mean | | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.7 |

Drinking and Driving By Others As Threat To Safety

Drinking and driving by others is perceived as a clear threat to the personal safety of Orange County residents. More than nine of ten respondents (94%) view driving under the influence as either a "great" or "moderate" threat, with fully **80% saying driving under the influence** is a great threat.



As might be expected, women are more likely than men to feel threatened by others driving under the influence as they are more likely than men to say that driving should not be undertaken after having had any alcoholic drinks.

| | Total | Male | Female |
|-----------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Great/Moderate Threat | 94% | 92% | 95% |
| Great (4) | 80 | 76 | 84 |
| Moderate (3) | 13 | 16 | 11 |
| Slight threat (2) | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| No threat (1) | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Notably, fewer of those aged 65+ and Whites feel that driving under the influence is a great threat to their personal safety (74% and 74%, respectively), compared with younger residents and residents with other ethnic backgrounds.



VIII. COMMUNITY CONCERN RATINGS

Residents also indicated how concerned they are about each of 15 issues related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in terms of their impact on the health and safety of people in the community. A "0-10" rating scale was used, with a "0" rating meaning not at all concerned and a "10" rating meaning extremely concerned.

The issues rated included specific substance-use behaviors involving adults, young people, or both, health problems related to substance use, and alcohol and tobacco industry advertising. A complete listing of these 15 issues accompanies the graphic results presented at the end of this section.

Highest Priority Community Concerns

"People driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs" emerged as the issue of greatest concern — consistent with 80% of residents stating that drinking and driving by other people is a "great threat" to personal safety.

Three other issues with very high levels of concern relate to the behavior of young people — "using illegal drugs," "engaging in binge drinking," and "attending rave parties where Ecstasy and other club drugs are available."

Other Priority Community Concerns

Six other issues were also given relatively high ratings as community concerns. These six issues were all given an extremely concerned rating of "10" by at least half of all Orange County residents and have average level-of-concern ratings ranging from 8.2 to 8.7. These six issues are:

- The amount of criminal activity related to the use of alcohol and other drugs (8.7)
- Adults engaging in heavy drinking or alcohol abuse (8.6)
- Young people using alcohol (8.6)
- Adults using illegal drugs (8.4)
- Young people using tobacco (8.2)
- The number of health problems related to the use of alcohol and other drugs (8.3)

Lower Priority Community Concerns

The five remaining issues are of lower priority to residents. These five issues were all given a "10" rating by less than half of the survey participants. However, with mean level-of-concern ratings ranging from 8.1 down to 6.0, these are still meaningful areas of focus for community ATOD prevention efforts.

- The number of health problems related to the use of tobacco (8.1)
- People misusing prescription drugs (7.8)
- The amount of advertising and promotion sponsored by the tobacco industry (7.0)
- The amount of advertising and promotion sponsored by the alcohol industry (6.4)
- The number and/or concentration of bars and liquor stores (6.0)



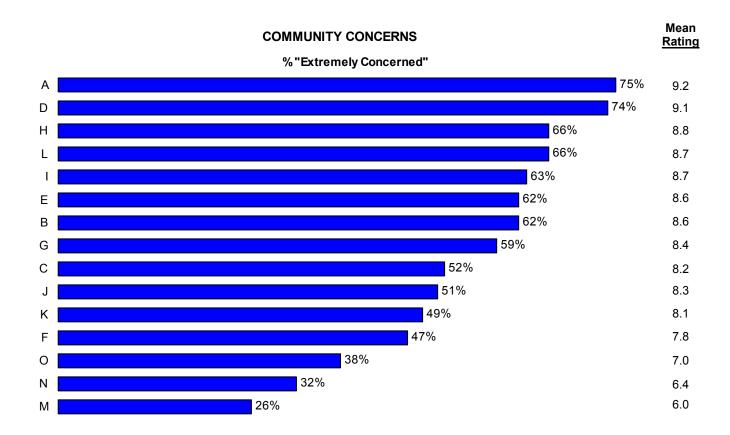
Demographic Differences in Level of Concern

The overall level of concern expressed about these issues differed significantly by gender, age and ethnicity.

- Women expressed significantly greater concern about all 15 issues than men. On average,
 - Women gave an extremely concerned (10) rating on 9 of the 15 issues compared to 7 items among men
 - The average proportion of women expressing extreme concern (10) across all issues was 62%, compared to 47% for men.
 - The average rating of concern given these 15 issues was 8.6 among women, significantly higher than the 7.6 among men
- There is a strong relationship between resident age and the level of concern expressed about these issues. Among those aged 18-24, an average of 5.6 items was given an extremely concerned rating, far fewer than the average of 8.2 items averaged among those age 25-54 and the 9.3 items averaged among those aged 55 years and older.
- Whites rated an average of 7.1 of these 15 items as extremely concerned, significantly below the 7.9 item average among Asian/Pacific Islanders and the 10.4 item average among Hispanics

As was reported with drinking and driving patterns, these findings suggest that Orange County residents' attitudes and beliefs regarding ATOD issues tend to reflect their general patterns of alcohol and other drug use.





- A. People driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- B. Young people using alcohol
- C. Young people using tobacco
- D. Young people using illegal drugs
- E. Adults engaging in heavy drinking or alcohol abuse
- F. People misusing prescription drugs
- G. Adults using illegal drugs
- H. Young people engaging in binge drinking (drinking 5 or more drinks at a time)
- The amount of criminal activity related to the use of alcohol and other drugs
- J. The number of health problems related to the use of alcohol and other drugs
- The number of health related problems related to use of tobacco
- L. Young people attending rave parties where Ecstasy and other club drugs are available
- M. The number and/or concentration of bars and liquor
- N. The amount of advertising and promotion sponsored by the alcohol industry
- O. The amount of advertising and promotion by the tobacco industry.



APPENDIX

| COMPARISON OF SUBSTANCE USE PREVALENCE RATES ¹ | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | L | ifetime U | se | Pa | st Year l | Jse | Past Month Use | | |
| Substance | United States ² | Calif- ornia ³ | Orange County ⁴ | United States ² | Calif- ornia ³ | Orange County ⁴ | United States ² | Calif- ornia ³ | Orange County⁴ |
| Any Illicit Drug ⁵ Marijuana | <u>45.9%</u> 41.0 | na na | 36.9% 33.5 | 11.1% 8.4 | na na | 9.2% 6.3 | <u>6.5%</u> 5.0 | <u>7.3%</u> 5.5 | <u>5.0%</u> 3.4 |
| Cocaine Heroin | 14.0 1.5 | na na | 14.5 2.1 | 1.6 0.2 | 1.7 na | 1.4 0.2 | 0.6 0.1 | na na | 0.4 0.1 |
| Hallucinogens | 11.2 | na | 10.5 | 1.4 | na | 0.4 | 0.4 | na | 0.1 |
| Methamphetamine Club Drugs/Ecstasy | 4.3 1.8 | na na | 7.8 4.7 ⁶ | 0.5 na | na na | 1.0 1.0 | 0.1 na | na na | 0.8 0.3 |
| Any Rx/Psychotherapeutics | <u>15.0</u> | na | <u>7.1</u> 6.5 | <u>3.6</u> 2.9 | na | <u>3.4</u> 3.2 | <u>1.5</u> 1.3 | na | <u>1.7</u> 1.5 |
| Pain Relievers Tranquilizers | 7.6 6.0 | na na | 3.8 | 1.3 | na na | 1.0 | 0.5 | na na | 0.5 |
| Stimulants Sedatives | 6.7 3.8 | na na | 2.2 2.1 | 0.8 0.3 | na na | 0.3 0.5 | 0.3 0.1 | na na | 0.3 0.1 |
| Alcohol (Binge Drinking) | <u>85.5</u> na | na na | 85.1 na | <u>65.3</u> na | na na | <u>61.3</u> na | <u>50.1</u> (21.8) | <u>50.4</u> (20.4) | <u>46.3</u> (14.6) |
| Cigarettes | <u>70.2</u> | na | <u>40.9</u> | <u>30.1</u> | na | <u>21.3</u> | <u>26.2</u> | <u>22.8</u> | <u>15.2</u> |

¹ All prevalence estimates are rates for the respective adult populations aged 18 years and older

² Source: 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse

³ Source: State Estimates of Substance Use From the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse

Source: County of Orange Healthcare Agency 2002 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Survey

⁵ Any Illicit Drug includes any prescription-type drug used non-medically

⁶ Comparison of OC prevalence with US prevalence rate should be interpreted with caution as the OC rate reflects use of "Club Drugs" collectively, including Ecstasy, Rohypnol, and Ketamine (Special K), while the US rate reflects use of Ecstasy only.

[&]quot;na" indicates data not available